

**OPINION 6**  
MODI'S CHARISMA  
TRANSCENDS BORDERS

**WORLD 9**  
N KOREA SPY SATELLITE  
LAUNCH FAILS

**MONEY 10**  
CENTRE'S FISCAL DEFICIT NARROWS  
TO 6.4% OF GDP IN FY23

RAIPUR, THURSDAY JUNE 1, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



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— Right to worship Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri —

## Hindu women plea maintainable: HC

**Mosque panel's petition rejected**

PNS/PTI ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday rejected a plea challenging the maintainability of a suit filed by five Hindu women seeking permission for regular worship of Shringar Gauri and other deities in Varanasi's Gyanvapi mosque compound.

Justice JJ Munir dismissed the mosque management committee's revision petition that contended that the suit is barred under the Places of Worship Act, 1991, which prohibits conversion of any place of worship and provides for the maintenance of its religious character as it existed on August 15, 1947. The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid (AIM) committee had filed the petition in the high court against the order of the district judge of Varanasi in September last year that turned down its objections on the maintainability of the suit filed by the five Hindu women.

The suit filed in August 2021 sought permission for daily worship at Maa Shringar Gauri Sthal in the Gyanvapi



complex.

The district judge had on September 12, 2022, dismissed the plea of AIM filed under Order 7 Rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC). It had observed that the suit by the Hindu women was not barred by the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, The Wakf Act 1995, and the UP Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act, 1983, as was being claimed by the AIM.

The counsel for the petitioner, SFA Naqvi, contended the claim of the Hindu side that the devotees were restrained from worshipping Shringar Gauri and other deities on the outer wall of Gyanvapi in 1993 is an "artificial" claim and an example of clever drafting.

According to him, no order was passed by the then State Government in writing in 1993.

He said that the aforesaid claim has been made only to avoid the application of the Places of Worship Act, 1991.

He pointed out that even if the claim of the Hindu side is accepted, why did they not file suit in 1993 when they were so restrained or thereafter. Hence, the suit filed before the Varanasi court is illegal under the Limitation Act which bars the filing of any suit for declaration after three years of an incident. He claimed that Gyanvapi is on a Waqf property, hence in case of any grievance, the claim should be made before the Waqf Tribunal.

## Cong guarantees betrayal of your trust: Modi

By boycotting new Parliament, Opp insulted 60,000 labourers, says PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In poll-bound Rajasthan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched his party's month-long pan-India campaign, "Maha Jansampark" from Ajmer and urged people not to be 'misled' by "the guarantee habit" of the Congress which he said "is not new but 50-years-old."

Addressing a public rally at Ajmer, Modi said people of Rajasthan have suffered on account of policies of the Congress which is in the habit of "tricking people".

"Fifty years ago, the Congress guaranteed that it will remove poverty. But it turned out to be their biggest betrayal to the poor. It has been a policy of the Congress to mislead the poor."

"The Opposition insulted the hard work of 60,000 labour-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves at supporters during a public meeting in Ajmer on Wednesday. Former Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje is also seen

PTI

ers (Shramik) and the sentiment of the country," by boycotting the inauguration of the new parliament, said Modi.

The rally marked the start of a series of BJP public meetings over a month in a major outreach campaign as the party completes nine years in power at the Centre.

Modi compared the "slow speed" of vaccination coverage in the country under the Congress with its speed under the BJP Government at the Centre. "When there was a Congress Government, the

vaccination coverage could reach only around 60 per cent.

At that time, 40 out of 100 pregnant women, and children could not receive life-saving vaccines. Had there been a Congress Government (now), 100 per cent vaccination coverage in the country would have taken 40 more years. Several generations would have passed by then. Can you imagine the number of poor women and children who would have died in the absence of life-saving vaccines?" Modi said.

## Court raps police for summons only through WhatsApp

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A court here has criticised the Delhi Police for serving summonses on public witnesses only through WhatsApp and referred the matter to the deputy commissioner of police, West district, for "appropriate action".

Additional Sessions Judge Hem Raj was hearing a murder case registered at Punjabi Bagh police station which was at the stage of prosecution evidence.

Noting that one of the prosecution witnesses was absent and did not respond to repeated calls, the judge said the Delhi Police Commissioner had issued a standing order in February last year regarding the service of summonses upon the witnesses. The judge also noted in another case, a letter was received from the DCP (west) stating there is no circular from Delhi Police to serve the summonses on WhatsApp.

"Earlier also, this court has noted in several cases that the witnesses are being served by the police officials on WhatsApp...", the judge said.

## Shah vows Manipur peace, return of displaced people

### Govt working on 3-pronged plan

PNS/PTI ■ IMPHAL

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said here that the Government is committed to restore peace in Manipur and ensuring an early return of all internally displaced people back to their homes. Meeting victims from both Meitei and Kuki communities in relief camps in the State, he assured them of security and said the Government's focus is to ensure their safe return home.

The Centre is working on a three-pronged approach to bring the warring Meitei and Kuki communities into a narrow common ground for lasting peace in trouble-torn Manipur, sources said on Wednesday. These include dialogue with the affected people, rehabilitating those who had to leave their homes



Union Home Minister Amit Shah in a meeting with a Kuki delegation, in Moreh, Manipur on Wednesday

PTI

with enhanced security and control over insurgents, the sources privy to the development said. The major task before the Government is to build confidence between the Meitei and Kuki communities.

On his third day of a trip to Manipur to broker peace between warring communities, Shah visited Moreh in

Tengnoupal district, followed by a tour to Kangpokpi district, and had wide ranging discussions with civil society organisations.

Amit Shah said, "We are committed to restoring peace in Manipur as early as possible and ensuring their (refugees) return to their homes."

## Cops refute claim of 'no ample proof' against WFI chief

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Wednesday refuted reports which claimed that there was no adequate evidence against BJP MP and the Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, saying the sexual harassment case against him is under consideration and the status report of the investigation will be submitted to court. The Delhi Police also cordoned off India



Gate and barred public entry to the memorial's lawns on Wednesday.

In a related development,

15 days. As the news came out in the media, the Delhi Police took to Twitter saying: "It is clarified that this news is 'wrong' and the investigation into this sensitive case is under progress with all sensitivity."

A police spokesperson also shared the same message with reporters, but after nearly an hour, the Delhi Police deleted its tweet. The public relations officer (PRO) also removed the message she had shared in the

official WhatsApp group for reporters.

Later, the police spokesperson shared another message in Hindi that read: "The cases filed by women wrestlers are still under consideration. Status reports are being filed before the court regarding the investigation in the said cases. As the cases are under investigation, it would be against the procedure to say anything before the report is filed in the court."

## CAPSULE

**AHMEDNAGAR. COLLEGE TO BE NAMED AFTER HOLKAR**



The Maharashtra CM and the Deputy CM pay tribute to Ahilyadevi Holkar on her birth anniversary, in Ahmednagar on Wednesday

PTI

**Mumbai:** In two simultaneous announcements, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said that the Ahmednagar district will be renamed as 'Ahilyadevi Holkar Nagar' in memory of the great queen of Malwa, who ruled from 1767-1795, while the State Health Ministry named a new government medical college at Baramati after Ahilyadevi Holkar.

**KHALISTANI SUPPORTERS HECKLE RAHUL AT EVENT**  
**Santa Clara:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was heckled by a group of Khalistani supporters who raised slogans against him and briefly interrupted his speech during an event here in the US state of California.

**CONMAN SUKESH ALLEGES HARASSMENT BY JAILORS**  
**New Delhi:** The Delhi Lieutenant Governor office has forwarded a complaint by Sukesh Chandrashekar alleging "mental harassment" by prison staff to the chief secretary for action.

## AAP wants power over babus to halt probes: Maken

**Kejriwal seeks Cong stand, to meet Stalin, Soren over Ordinance issue**

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader and former Union Minister Ajay Maken on Wednesday fired a fresh salvo at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claiming the AAP convener was seeking "enhanced powers" over administrative services to stall probes into corruption allegations against his administration.

The AAP said, "This is the statement of an individual. What is the stand of the Congress party on this?"

Maken's jibe came amid Kejriwal's bid to ramp up support from Opposition Chief Ministers on the issue of control of services in the national Capital. Kejriwal will be meeting his Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand counterparts MK Stalin and Hemant Soren on Thursday and Friday respectively. In a related development, AIMIM president



Asaduddin Owaisi announced that his party would not support Kejriwal as the AAP chief follows "real Hindutva".

Reacting to a query on his views on the issue, Owaisi said that his party would not support to Kejriwal in Rajya Sabha. Owaisi said: "Why did Kejriwal support Narendra Modi when Article 370 was abrogated. Didn't he realise that one State was made into three UTs. He (Kejriwal) tried to show he is the biggest Hindu. When Article 370 was scrapped, he supported the BJP. Why did Kejriwal support the BJP on Article 370?"

As Kejriwal continues to reach out to Opposition leaders seeking support against the Centre's Ordinance wresting control of 'services' from the Delhi Government, leaders from the BJP and the Congress' Delhi units are unanimous in their offensive against Kejriwal over the issue.

## India first to regulate anti-tobacco warnings on OTT platforms

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has become the first country in the world to regulate anti-tobacco warnings on OTT platforms with the Union Health Ministry on Wednesday issuing a notification in this regard on the occasion of "World No Tobacco Day" that would be applicable after three months.

It notified the amended rules under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2004, making it mandatory for OTT platforms to display anti-tobacco warnings as are seen in movies



screened in theatres and TV programmes.

Soon after the issuance of notification, Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South East Asia Region welcomed the move saying, India has become the first country in the world to regulate anti-tobacco warnings on OTT platforms.

## India's feat in 10 yrs astonishing: Morgan Stanley

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has transformed, gaining a position in the world order and becoming a key driver for Asia and global growth, said Morgan Stanley. In a report, Morgan Stanley said significant scepticism about India, particularly with overseas investors, ignores the significant changes that have taken place in India, especially since 2014.

Rejecting criticism that India has not delivered its potential (despite it being the second-fastest-growing economy and among the top-performing stock markets over the past 25 years) and that equity valuations are too rich, saying such a view ignores the sys-

tematic reforms in the last nine years.

"This India is different from what it was in 2013. In a short span of 10 years, India has gained positions in the world order with significant positive consequences for the macro and market outlook," it said. "India has transformed in less than a decade."

Listing the 10 big changes that have happened since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office in 2014, the brokerage said bringing corporate tax at par with peers and infrastructure investment picking pace are one of the biggest supply-side policy reforms.

Also, the rising collection of GST — the uniform tax that replaced more than a dozen



different central and state taxes — and the rising share of digital transactions as a percentage of GDP indicate the formalisation of the economy.

Transfer of subsidies to accounts of beneficiaries, insolvency and bankruptcy code, flexible inflation targeting, focus on FDI, government support for corporate profits,

a new law for real estate sector and MNC sentiment at multi-year high were other significant changes, it said.

Manufacturing and capital spending as a percentage of GDP has continuously risen, Morgan Stanley said, adding export market share is projected to more than double to 4.5 per cent by 2031.

## GDP grows 6.1% in March quarter, 7.2% in 2022-23

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's economy grew 6.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2022-23, pushing up the annual growth rate to 7.2 per cent, official data showed on Wednesday.

Growth in the January-March period was higher than the 4.5 per cent expansion in the previous October-December quarter of 2022-23.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) had expanded by 4 per cent in the January-March period of 2021-22,



according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

As per the data, the economy expanded 7.2 per cent in 2022-23 against a 9.1 per cent growth in 2021-22.

The NSO in its second advance estimate of national accounts had pegged the country's growth at 7 per cent for 2022-23.



# Ramayan Festival in Raigarh from today

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will on Thursday inaugurate a three-day Ramayan Festival at the Ramleela Ground in Raigarh.

The event will start under the chairmanship of Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat.

The presentations of Ramkatha based on Aranya Kand will be performed by national and international groups.

The Aranya Kand is a part of Ramcharitmanas and Valmiki Ramayan, which narrate the days of Lord Rama's exile.

The festival will feature



performances by Ramayan troupes from Indonesia and Cambodia.

On each day, there will be a group recitation of Hanuman Chalisa. Kelo Maha Arti and Deep Daan

will be organized for the closing ceremony.

The event will feature performances by eminent artists. Stars from Indian Idol and Saregama, Shanmukha Priya and

Sharad Sharma, will take part on June 1.

Singers Baba Hansraj Raghuvanshi and Lakhbir Singh Lakha will perform on June 2. Bhajan singer Maithili Thakur and poet

**The presentations of Ramkatha based on Aranya Kand will be performed by national and international groups**

Kumar Vishwas will render the story of Lord Ram on June 3.

# SDO suspended over water scandal

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

The District Collector of Kanker in Chhattisgarh on Wednesday suspended sub-divisional officer (SDO) R.L. Dhivar, for giving verbal approval to a junior officer to drain out a huge quantity of water from a weir to retrieve his mobile phone.

Earlier, Dhivar was served a show cause notice.

He has been suspended under the Chhattisgarh Civil Services (Classification, Control, and Appeal) Rules, 1966. He will be attached to Headquarters Superintending Engineer Indravati Project Circle, Jagdalpur, an official communication said.



The suspension order states that Dhivar failed in his official responsibilities.

On May 21, on his verbal assurance, Rajesh Vishwas, a food officer in Pakhanjore, released 4,104 cubic metres of water for four consecutive

days from Paralkot reservoir.

Vishwas drained out the water from the weir to retrieve his mobile phone.

The government on Tuesday fined Vishwas Rs 53,092 and also suspended him.

# Envir protection pledge today

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has appealed to people to participate in the pledge programme under 'Lifestyle for Environment' (LIFE) on June 1.

The Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board (CECB) is organizing the event to create public awareness on environmental protection. It will be held from 8 am to 5 pm, an official communication said on Wednesday.

CECB has urged officers and employees of all government and non-government departments, people with public and private sector industries, school/college students, social organizations



and self-help groups to be part of the event.

CECB officials have released a WhatsApp number

for people to send photos and videos of their oath. It can be taken in Hindi or English in groups or individually.

# Would be happier if youths have employment in hand: CM

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday released the second instalment of unemployment allowance but underlined that he would be very happy if these youths were employed.

He virtually released Rs 32.35 crore to 1.05 lakh beneficiaries at his official residence here.

"The state government is continuously releasing vacancies for government jobs with focus on skill development. The unemployment allowance is just a small contribution that can help you to achieve your goals," an official



communication quoting him as saying.

He said the economic circumstances of families

involved as labourers, engaged in agriculture and small businesses varies. The families provide them

education but still remain on financial support.

The unemployment allowance provides signifi-

cant financial support to the youths to prepare for competitive exams and other similar activities.

Even the state government has waived off examination fees for competitive examinations organized by the Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board and Public Service Commission, he added.

He said with skill training, the government is opening new opportunities through Rural Industrial Parks (RIPA) where they can establish small-scale cottage industries.

He added that Chhattisgarh has the lowest unemployment rate in the country today. The status will be maintained in future also.



Artisans are promoted at Aajivika-Gidi in Rural Industrial Parks (RIPA) across Chhattisgarh where traditional businesses of cobblers, blacksmiths and potters are patronized.

# CM to dedicate hi-tech library today

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will on June 1 dedicate a state-of-the-art District Library in Raigarh district.

The Raigarh administration has overhauled the Raigarh District Government Library, set up in 1955, an official communication said on Wednesday.

The new library is equipped with a Wi-Fi campus, a digital classroom, an e-library and a canteen. The study room, air-conditioned, can accommodate 250 persons.

With the addition of new books and updated furniture with personal study tables, the library has a collection of over 23,000 books. Twenty computers have been provided for



online studies. Students can also conveniently print study materials.

The digital classroom can

accommodate 30 students.

The library also offers around 180 personal cabins for researchers and students.

It will remain open to students from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Access to e-library will be available.

# Electricity call centre will shut for a day on June 3



**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh state electricity consumers will be devoid of the call centre 1912 services on Saturday night (June 3) due to upgrading of the system.

The consumers can register the complaints

through the mobile application 'Mor Bijli', an official communication said on Wednesday.

The Executive Director of the Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Co, V.K. Sai, said the centre will be closed for eight hours on June 3 (10 pm to 6 am).

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, BRIDGE CIRCLE RAIPUR (C.G.)

Memo No. 1955 /G./2023 Raipur Dt. 30/05/2023

**Tender Notice (1st Call)**

Last date of Tender Download up to Dt. 17-06-2023, Time 17:30 PM.

Contractors, Registered appropriate class in Unified Registration System [e-Registration] invited Online tenders for the following works :-

NIT No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
1	2	3
02/136123	BORING WORK FOR PROPOSED NEW BRIDGES FOR SUB DIVISION MAHASAMUND FOR YEAR 2023-24	Rs. 23.78 Lakh
03/136124	BORING WORK FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE FOR SUB DIVISION DHAMTARI UNDER BRIDGE DIVISION RAIPUR (YEAR 2023-24)	Rs. 36.88 Lakh
04/136125	BORING WORK UNDER PWD BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION DIVISION KANKER.	Rs. 52.42 Lakh

All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

**Superintending Engineer  
P.W.D. Bridge Circle  
Raipur (C.G.)**

G- 01858/3

## न्यायालय कलेक्टर, धमतरी जिला-धमतरी (छत्तीसगढ़)

व्यक्तिगत उपस्थिति समन  
रा.प्र.क्र. 202303130100022/वर्ष 2022-23

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी हिन्दुजा हाउसिंग फाइनेंस लिमिटेड, शाखा - हिन्दुजा हाउसिंग फाइनेंस, पुजारी चेंबर्स, पचपेड़ी नाका, रायपुर-492001(छ.ग.) वादी प्रेषिती

1. श्री मोहन लाल साहू  
2. श्री केशरी साहू पति श्री मोहन लाल साहू  
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उपरोक्त वादी इस न्यायालय में वित्तीय आस्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण और पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूतिहित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम, 2002 की धारा 14 के अंतर्गत अनावेदकगण द्वारा आवेदक बैंक से गृह ऋण की सुरक्षा हेतु बैंक के पक्ष में रखी गई बंधक संपत्ति - ग्राम/मौजा - अण्डा, खसरा नं. 667/2, प.ह.नं. 40, रा.नि.मं. धमतरी तहसील व जिला धमतरी (छ.ग.) क्षेत्रफल-0.010 हेक्टेयर को बकाया राशि की अदायगी नहीं करने के कारण रित्त भौतिक आधिपत्य में प्राप्त करने हेतु प्रस्तुत आवेदन पत्र पर प्रकरण सस्थित कर प्राकृतिक न्याय सिद्धांत के अंतर्गत अनावेदकों को इस न्यायालय द्वारा समक्ष सुनवाई किये जाने हेतु सूचना पत्र जारी कर आहूत किया गया था। जारी नोटिस वापस प्राप्त हुआ है। चूकि अनावेदकों को प्रकरण में समक्ष सुनवाई का युक्तियुक्त अवसर प्रदान किया जाना है। अतएव इस समन के जरिये अनावेदकों को आवेश दिया जाता है कि आप इस मामले की आगामी पेशी दिनांक 05/06/2023 को कलेक्टर, धमतरी के न्यायालय में व्यक्तिगत रूप से अनिवार्यतः उपस्थित होकर अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत करें। यदि आप निर्धारित सुनवाई तिथि को अनुपस्थित पाये गये तो मामले की सुनवाई आपकी गैरहाजिरी में की जाकर आपके विरुद्ध एकपक्षीय कार्यवाही की जावेगी। आज दिनांक 26/05/2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की पदमुद्रा से जारी किया गया।  
पृ.क्रमांक/249/प्र.क.ले./2023 कलेक्टर, धमतरी

## न्यायालय कलेक्टर, धमतरी जिला-धमतरी (छत्तीसगढ़)

व्यक्तिगत उपस्थिति समन  
रा.प्र.क्र. 202303130100013/वर्ष 2022-23

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1. श्रीमती बेउला विजय सिंह पति श्री विजय सिंह,  
2. श्रीमती रागिनी विनय सिंह पति श्री विनय सिंह  
दोनों निवासी : हाउस नं. 171, टिकरापारा चौक, पीपल पेड के पास, वाई नं. 33, तहसील एवं जिला - धमतरी (छ.ग.)-493773 .....अनावेदकगण  
उपरोक्त वादी इस न्यायालय में वित्तीय आस्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण और पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूतिहित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम, 2002 की धारा 14 के अंतर्गत अनावेदकगण द्वारा आवेदक बैंक से गृह ऋण की सुरक्षा हेतु बैंक के पक्ष में रखी गई बंधक संपत्ति - सर्वे नंबर 2642/1, खसरा नं. 2642/1, प्लॉट नंबर 16 में निर्मित भवन स्थित ग्राम/मौजा-टिकरापारा वाई, वाई नंबर 19, प.ह.नं. 16 तहसील व जिला धमतरी (छ.ग.) रकबा-2085 वर्गफीट को बकाया राशि की अदायगी नहीं करने के कारण रित्त भौतिक आधिपत्य में प्राप्त करने हेतु प्रस्तुत आवेदन पत्र पर प्रकरण सस्थित कर प्राकृतिक न्याय सिद्धांत के अंतर्गत अनावेदकों को इस न्यायालय द्वारा समक्ष सुनवाई किये जाने हेतु सूचना पत्र जारी कर आहूत किया गया था। जारी नोटिस वापस प्राप्त हुआ है। चूकि अनावेदकों को प्रकरण में समक्ष सुनवाई का युक्तियुक्त अवसर प्रदान किया जाना है। अतएव इस समन के जरिये अनावेदकों को आवेश दिया जाता है कि आप इस मामले की आगामी पेशी दिनांक 05/06/2023 को कलेक्टर, धमतरी के न्यायालय में व्यक्तिगत रूप से अनिवार्यतः उपस्थित होकर अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत करें। यदि आप निर्धारित सुनवाई तिथि को अनुपस्थित पाये गये तो मामले की सुनवाई आपकी गैरहाजिरी में की जाकर आपके विरुद्ध एकपक्षीय कार्यवाही की जावेगी। आज दिनांक 22/05/2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की पदमुद्रा से जारी किया गया।  
पृ.क्रमांक/248/प्र.क.ले./2023 कलेक्टर, धमतरी



# Surging Uttarakhand

INVESTORS' PARADISE

Acting upon the vision of PM Narendra Modi, CM Pushkar Singh Dhami led government, is surging ahead on all development parameters. The state government is committed to usher in industrial growth, with special focus on MSMEs

## Growth agenda powered by double-engine government



“With a focused approach for inclusive growth of the state, the mantra that is being followed is, ‘Reform-Perform-Transform’. Uttarakhand has the potential in diverse fields, and the same is being tapped so that it benefits the hardworking youth of the state seeking employment. To promote and develop a conducive ecosystem, investors and stakeholders have our support in all the endeavours and we are working for the state’s development.”

—Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister, Uttarakhand



To make India self-reliant by promoting local manufacturing, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s idea of Atmanirbhar Bharat seems to be bearing fruit in Uttarakhand. CM Pushkar Singh Dhami, too, has reiterated upon creating local employment opportunities.

So, towards fostering investment and encouraging micro, small, and medium enterprises, the government of Uttarakhand has shaped the ‘MSME Policy 2015’ to fit in the scheme of things.

MSMEs are critical in providing inclusive employment generation and their facilitation is top priority for the government. The MSME Policy aims at utilising local resources, generating employment opportunities for people, especially in hill regions, and also promoting self-employment. The policy provides a comprehensive package of incentives as well as other supports for the benefit of the public.

The policy shall remain in effect till June 30, 2023. Enterprises established before January 31, 2015, undergoing expansion/modernisation/ diversification (by way of addition of more than 25% on fixed capital investment), shall also be eligible for Capital Investment Subsidy, Interest Subsidy and Stamp Duty exemption under the scheme. Categorisation of various regions of the state has been done to decide the quantum of fiscal incentive. The state has been divided into five categories for the purpose of quantum of incentives/ subsidies as stated.

“The construction of a developed India for the 21st century rests primarily on two pillars — pride in our heritage, and second, every possible effort that is being made towards development. Today, both these pillars are being strengthened by the state of Uttarakhand. This decade surely will be the decade of Uttarakhand.”

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

### FISCAL INCENTIVES & CONCESSIONS

**Investment Promotion Assistance (capital subsidy):** The assistance (capital subsidy) shall be admissible on the fixed capital investment on plant & machinery and factory building/ work. For Category- A, 40% (max up to Rs 40 lakh); for Category B & B+, 35% (max up to Rs 35 lakh); for Category C, 30% (max up to Rs 30 lakh); and for Category D, 15% (max up to Rs 15 lakh).

\*Capital investment subsidy shall be available only from one source, either from central government or state government sponsored capital investment subsidy schemes.

### CATEGORY INCLUDED REGION

Category A	Entire districts of Pithoragrah, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Champawat, Rudrapur and Bageshwar
Category B	• Entire district of Almora • All hilly development blocks of district Pauri Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal. (Excluding regions under category B+) • All hilly development blocks of district Nainital and Dehradun. (Excluding regions under category B+)
*Category B+	• Kotdwar, Sigaddi and adjoining plain regions of Dugadda development block of district Pauri Garhwal • Dhalwala, Muni Ki Reti, Tapovan and adjoining plain regions of Fakot development block of District Tehri Garhwal • Kotabagh development block of district Nainital • Plain regions of Kalsi development block of district Dehradun
Category C	• Regions located above 650 mts from sea level in Raipur, Sahaspur, Vikasnagar and Doiwala development blocks of district Dehradun • Ramnagar and Haldwani development blocks of district Nainital
Category D	• Entire districts of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar • Remaining area of district Dehradun and Nainital (which are not included in category B, B+ and C)

### Reimbursement of SGST

Reimbursement of the SGST after adjustment of input tax credit on B2C sale of the finished product for category A is 100% for the first 5 years and 90% thereafter; and for category B & B+ 100% for the first 5 years and 75% thereafter

Concession of stamp duty on registration of sale deed/ lease deed of land for category A is 100%; for category B & B+ is 100%; category C is 100%; and for category D is 50%

To promote the establishment of private industrial estates in hilly areas, a Special Integrated Industrial Promotion Policy was announced. This policy was proposed to encourage the private participation of the industrial sector

## Setting up of industrial areas

In the special integrated industrial promotion policy announced for hilly and remote areas, on a total expenditure incurred on primary infrastructure facilities, like internal roads, drains, lighting etc, a provision of 50 per cent subsidy, up to Rs 50 lakh, was made. This has been done to promote the establishment of private industrial estates in hilly areas.

In view of the expiry of the special industrial package approved by the Government of India, and the limited availability of land for industries in the integrated industrial estates developed by SIDCUL, private participation has been encouraged for the establishment of industrial estates/ areas. The main provisions of this policy are as follows:

- For the establishment of a private industrial estate, it is necessary to have at least 30 acres in the plain area, and at least 2 acres or more, in the hilly area.
- In the private sector, for the development of IT Park/ Biotechnology Park, it is necessary to have a minimum built-up area of 18,000 sqm, as per the prevailing building bye-laws of SIDA.

For private industrial estate/ area, the investor/ promoter will arrange the land from his own resources.

- For the development of industrial estates/ areas, the SIDA/ unified building byelaws will have to be followed, and SIDA will act as the regulatory authority.
- It will be the responsibility of the promoter of the industrial estate to provide infrastructure facilities such as internal roads, drains, lighting, and other common facilities in such industrial estates.
- For the establishment of private industrial estates/ areas, the process of in-principle approval/ regulation will be of two stages. In the first phase, in-principle approval will be given for the establishment of the industrial estate. For the

establishment in the second phase, as per the layout plan approved by SIDA on the acquired land, after submission of completion certificate, a formal notification will be issued.

- For the development of infrastructure facilities outside private industrial estates/ areas, an Infrastructure Development Fund will be created with a fund of Rs 100 crore. This fund will be operated by SIDCUL. In relation to the total capital investment made in the private industrial location, 2 per cent will be given for infrastructure facilities outside the location.
- Under this policy, capital subsidy at the rate of Rs 10 lakh per acre will be given in four phases against the capital investment made on the infrastructure facilities within the locality, and for the establishment of CETP in private industrial localities, fixed capital will be provided. Subsidy will be given up to 40 per cent of the investment, up to a maximum of Rs 1 crore.
- This policy will be applicable from the date of issue of notification and will be effective for the next five years.



## The Uttarakhand Logistics Policy-2023

### ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Logistics park, inland container depot, warehouse, truck terminal, logistics vehicle, cold storage etc.
- Development of eco logistics or green logistics/ technology logistics facilities.

### FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

- Financial incentive ranging from 10 to 25 per cent on project cost.
- Maximum grant of Rs 8 cr for project cost up to Rs 50 cr, maximum grant of Rs 24 cr for project cost of Rs 50 cr to Rs 150 cr, and maximum grant of Rs 32 cr for project cost above Rs 150 cr.
- For warehousing facility, 5,000 sq ft area with minimum investment of Rs 2.50 cr in hilly area and 10,000 sq ft area required in plain area with minimum investment of Rs 5 cr.
- 45,000 sq ft land required for truck terminal with minimum investment of Rs 5 cr.
- Minimum area for cold storage 5,000 sq ft.

TOWARDS ENDORSING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, PLASTIC HAS BEEN BANNED IN UTTARAKHAND. HERE ARE SOME KEY POINTS FOR ONE-TIME USE OF PLASTIC IN THE STATE

## SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAN: POLICY BOOST FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Single-use plastic, be it of any shape - plastic carry bags (with or without handles) of thickness, size and colour and non-woven poly single use bags made of polypropylene, thermocol (polystyrene), polyurethane, styrofoam and the like; disposable cutlery or plastic, such as plate trays, bowls, cups, glasses, spoons, forks, straws, knives, stirrers, etc - the production, purchase, sale, import, storage, use and supply of these have been banned in the state of Uttarakhand. In addition, by notification of the government dated August 12, 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India, from July 1, 2022, the manufacture, import, storage, distribution, sale and use of expanded polystyrene articles are also prohibited.

By banning the use, storage, manufacturing, buying, and selling of single-use plastic products, production work has stopped in the units engaged in the manufacture of these products in the state. Employment has also been affected by this. With a view to combating plastic waste pollution and eradicating single-use plastic by promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, and to encourage manufacturing of alternative products in the form of substitutes to single-use plastic, financial incentives have been provided in the MSME Policy 2015 (as amended from time to time). Towards giving incentives, this policy has been approved by

the cabinet as well.

Following provisions have been made for additional financial incentives:

### 1. INVESTMENT PROMOTION ASSISTANCE:

Fixed capital made in plant and machinery and workshop building of the enterprise. Top-up investment incentive subsidy of 10% (maximum Rs 10 lakh) on investment.

**2. INTEREST SUBSIDY:** Payable on term loan taken from financial institution/ bank for establishment of enterprises an additional interest reimbursement assistance up to Rs 1 lakh/ annum/ per unit for C category districts, up to Rs 2 lakh/ annum/ per unit for D category districts, (as classified by the MSME policy).

**3. REIMBURSEMENT OF SGST:** In diversification of existing enterprise or establishment of new enterprise for manufacture of alternative products, the total gross SGST to be received by the state government from the SGST chargeable on new plant and machinery reimbursement assistance of 20 per cent (after adjustment of ITC). The benefits of all the above facilities will be available only to those units which have been affected or closed due to the ban order of the Central/ state government.

## ODTP: Boosting local products

Taking into account the needs of the people, PM Narendra Modi’s idea for sustainable development of rural India aims at espousing local products. The ‘One District Two Products’ scheme of the Uttarakhand government launched in October 2021, strives to promote and generate self-employment opportunities

PHOTO: DIPR UTTARAKHAND



Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, officials believe that the increase in business and demand will create employment (in packaging, testing, logistics) in the hill state at the local level, while the export of products will also go up. The PM has urged tourists to shell out at least 5% of the total spending to purchase local products. Under Uttarakhand’s ‘One District Two Products’ the local products specific to each district will be identified and two of them will be developed.

The scheme aims to give a boost to traditional manufacturing and the craft industry of the state and help promote them on a

national and international scale. It will also create employment opportunities for local farmers, artisans, craftsmen etc.

Everything, from sweets, snacks, herbal products to brass craft, woollens, etc, is being identified and promoted. Millet biscuits of Bageshwar, handicrafts from Champawat, baked goods and mushrooms from Dehradun, candles from Nainital, honey products from Haridwar, kidney beans from Munsiyari, temple artifacts from Rudrapur are some of the products identified for promotion under the scheme. The products will be developed based on the market demand with the help of modern technology, skill, and design development.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always emphasised that startups are a crucial component of Atmanirbhar Bharat. The Uttarakhand Startup Policy encompasses measures to support and facilitate all the key stakeholders in the startup ecosystem. The policy contains provision for various incentives and assistance to startups, incubators, mentors, educational institutes, investors etc.

Under the leadership of chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, the state government has also launched startup official portal as a one-stop interactive platform for innovator, entrepreneurs, incubators, mentors, investors, educational institutes, students, and service providers etc to connect them with each other and keep themselves updated about the startup ecosystem.

After the launch of the Uttarakhand Startup Policy, the growth of the startup ecosystem in Uttarakhand accelerated significantly. From adding the number of startups, to number of incubators, mentor, investors, partners etc, the growth of all key stakeholders has been encouraging.

### Key Points of Uttarakhand Startup Policy

- Under the new policy to set up 1,000 startups in five years, the objective is to set up at least one incubation centre in each district



## Empowering startups, aiding entrepreneurship

Uttarakhand, once regarded as a late beginner in the startup ecosystem of the country, has seen rapid progress in past three years. While, till the end of the year 2018, there were only 100 startups in the state, the figure had gone beyond 500 by the end of 2021

- To registered startups Rs 15,000 monthly allowance per month, up to one year. Startups based on scheduled caste/ tribe/ divyang/ transgender or grassroots innovations will get Rs 20,000 monthly allowance
- Registered startups will get up to Rs 10 lakh, one-time seed funding. Startups based on scheduled caste/ tribe/ divyang/ transgender or grassroots innovations will get up to Rs 12.50 lakh seed funding
- For national patents, per patent Rs 1 lakh

help and for international patents Rs 5 lakh reimbursement

- Application for trademark and industrial design will invite an assistance of Rs 10,000
- One-time free-of-cost pre-incubation support and incubation assistance
- For the establishment of new incubation centers Rs 1 crore, and for expansion of existing incubation center capital subsidy up to Rs 50 lakh
- For the establishment of enterprise Rs 200 crore fund provision

## MEGA INDUSTRIAL POLICIES SPURRING GROWTH

TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMY OF THE STATE, THE PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI LED GOVT HAS EMPHASISED ON THE SETTING UP OF INDUSTRIES IN UTTARAKHAND BY OFFERING INCENTIVES TO ENTREPRENEURS AND INDUSTRIES IN VARIOUS SECTORS

Under the investment policy, there are four categories getting benefits i.e. 7% interest subsidy and SGST concessions of 50% for all projects, except the large project category which has 30% concession. The four categories are:

- Large projects having investments of Rs 50 cr to Rs 75 cr
- Mega projects having investment of Rs 75 cr to Rs 200 cr
- Ultra mega projects having investments of Rs 200 cr to 400 cr
- Super ultra mega projects with investments above Rs 400 cr

Besides this, under the guidance of PM Narendra Modi, the government is backing the industrial sector with power assistance. The industries are reimbursed with Re 1 per unit on the electricity bill for extended period of five years from the start of production. Biotechnology policy is working towards smoothing the process of innovation, development, deployment or commercialisation of new products, processes or services driven by technology or intellectual property.

The focus is on the Mega Food Parks (MFP) and the established units within them.

- 6% interest subsidy (maximum of Rs 4 lakh) for five years
- 100% stamp duty exemption and purchase land and leasing properties
- 1.55/unit for irrigation purpose for food processing units
- 100% exemption on mandi fee on raw materials for a period of five year



# Govt OK’s ₹1L-cr for massive co-op grain storage capacity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹1 lakh crore programme to create a massive grain storage capacity in the cooperative sector to reduce crop damages and prevent distress sales by farmers, besides strengthening the country’s food security. The Government is planning to create 700 lakh tonne of grain storage capacity in the cooperative sector over the next five years and said the move will also help in creating job opportunities in rural India.

Briefing media, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said the Cabinet has approved the “world’s largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector”. On investment, he said the programme will start “with an expenditure of around Rs 1 lakh crore”. As per the plan, a godown of 2,000 tonne capacity will be established in each block.

This will help in strengthening the cooperative sector, as



Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) can diversify into the storage of food grains. There are 1 lakh PACS in the country, out of which around 63,000 are functional. Thakur said the country’s foodgrains production is around 3,100 lakh tonne, while the storage capacity is only 47 per cent of the total output.

In developed economies, he said, the storage capacities are higher than output. Asked about the source of funding, Thakur said the funds available in Ministries of agriculture, food processing and food and consumer affairs would be

utilised. At present, the total grain storage capacity in the country is about 1,450 lakh tonne, he said, adding that 700 lakh tonne storage capacity will now be established in the cooperative sector. This will take the total capacity to 2,150 lakh tonne.

On benefits, the minister said the creation of decentralised storage capacity at the local level would reduce food grain wastage and strengthen the food security of the country. This would hugely reduce the cost incurred in the transportation of food grains to procurement centres and again

transporting the stocks back from warehouses to ration shops, he said.

According to an official statement, the Cabinet approved the Constitution and Empowerment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) for the facilitation of the ‘world’s largest grain storage plan in Cooperative Sector’ by the convergence of various schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Ministry of Food Processing Industries. To ensure time-bound and uniform implementation of the plan, the Ministry of Cooperation will implement a pilot project in at least 10 selected districts of different states/ UTs in the country. The IMC will be constituted under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Cooperation, with the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Minister of Food Processing Industries and Secretaries concerned as members.

# Fish moving to colder regions, deep waters due to global warming: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to stay cool as global warming makes their current swimming zones hot, the majority of fish populations in the sea are either moving towards colder waters nearer the north and south poles or deeper waters, as per a study on the impact of climate change on oceans.

The researchers from the University of Glasgow in the UK found that, in response to ocean warming, many marine fish populations are shifting towards the Earth’s poles or are moving to deeper waters.

For marine life such as fish, the temperature of the surrounding water affects critical functions such as metabolism, growth and reproduction.

Marine species also often have a very narrow livable temperature range making even small differences in the water impossible to cope with. As a result, marine life changes caused by global warming have been up to seven-fold faster than animal responses on land, the researchers said.



The study, published in the journal Global Change Biology, examined data on 115 species spanning all major oceanic regions, totalling 595 marine fish population responses to rising sea temperatures.

“We observed a striking trend (where) species living in areas that are warming faster are also showing the most rapid shifts in their geographical distributions,” said Carolin Dahms, lead author of the study.

“It’s possible that the rate of warming in some regions may be too fast for fish to adapt, and so relocating may be their best coping strategy. At the same time we see that their ability to do so is also impacted by other factors such as fishing, with commercially exploited species moving more slowly,” Dahms said.

# Chopper MH-60R made maiden landing on aircraft carrier INS Vikrant: Navy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to commence flight operations from the indigenously-designed and built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, the maiden landing of MH-60R helicopter was undertaken on Tuesday, Navy officials said here on Wednesday.

“In another milestone for the Indian Navy, MH60R helicopter undertakes maiden landing on the indigenously designed and constructed aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant. A major boost to the Indian Navy’s Anti-Submarine Warfare and Fleet Support capability,” a Navy statement said.

The helicopter landing took place days after the aircraft carrier witnessed night landing of MG-29 K fighter jets last week.

Giving details of the landing in pitch dark conditions considered to be demanding, officials had said this landing was indicative of Navy’s impetus towards ‘aatmanirbharta’.



This challenging night landing trial also demonstrates the resolve, skill and professionalism of the Vikrant crew and the naval pilots, they added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the Navy for undertaking a successful night landing and said, “This remarkable achievement is a testimony to the skills, perseverance and professionalism of the Vikrant crew and Naval pilots. Kudos to them.”

Landing fighter jets on a normal runway is different compared to landing on a flight deck of an aircraft carrier due to the shorter length of the deck.

# Delhi HC refuses to quash CBI case against RAW official for revealing secrets in book

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to quash a CBI case registered against a former RAW official for allegedly revealing secret information in his book ‘India’s External Intelligence- Secrets of Research and Analysis Wing’. Justice Mukta Gupta dismissed the petition by Major-General (retired) VK Singh seeking quashing of the case against him under the Official Secrets Act, and said whether the revelations in the book were likely to affect the sovereignty, integrity and security of the country was a matter of trial and what prejudices national security cannot be decided by courts.

“It would be a matter of trial after the witnesses are examined to see whether the revelations by the petitioner in his book is likely to affect the sovereignty and integrity of



India and/or the security of the State. In view of the discussion aforesaid, this Court finds no merit in the petition. Petition and application are dismissed,” said the court.

The petitioner, who is a former joint secretary of India’s external spy agency, contended his intention to write the book was to highlight issues of lack of accountability and corruption in Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and the allegation of revealing secrets harmful to the country’s security and sovereignty were totally baseless and unfounded. Singh retired from service in June 2002 and his book was published in June 2007. The

FIR was registered against him in 2008.

The court observed that although the “entire tenor” of the book highlighted certain irregularities at RAW, the grievance of the CBI was with respect to the use of names of officers, location of the places and recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GOM) etc. It noted the petitioner reproduced the recommendations of the GOM verbatim and that he has, in another matter, himself said similar revelations made by two other authors and publishers amounted to an offence under the Official Secrets Act.

“This Court ...Has noted that what prejudices the national security cannot be decided by the courts. Even in the present case, the recommendations of the GOM, which were deleted from publication, have been reproduced verbatim by the petitioner,” it stated.

# PFI radicalisation of youth in Bihar town: NIA raids 25 spots

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday raided 25 locations in three States in connection with the 2022 Popular Front of India (PFI) Phulwari Sharif conspiracy to radicalise and train its cadres and members for carrying out acts of terror and violence.

The NIA conducted searches at the premises of suspects in Katihar district of Bihar, Dakshina Kannada, and Shimoga districts of Karnataka; and Kasaragod, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram districts of Kerala, the NIA said.

A slew of digital devices, including mobile phones, hard disk, SIM cards, pen-drives, data cards, incriminating documents and materials related to

the banned organisation were seized during the searches.

The agency also seized Indian currency of the face value of ₹17,50,100. So far, a total of 85 locations have been raided during investigations of the case. Acting on a tip-off, Bihar police had carried out a raid at the rented premises of one Athar Parvez on July 11, 2022, and had seized incriminating articles related to PFI including a document titled “India 2047 Towards Rule of Islamic India, Internal Document: Not for circulation”.

Athar Parvej was arrested, along with other accused, identified as Md. Jalaluddin Khan, Arman Malik alias Imteyaz Anwer and Nooruddin Zangi alias Advocate Nooruddin.

A chargesheet was filed by NIA against these four on January 7, 2023.

# India equipped with modern tech for any robust response if needed: Army chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With rapid modernization of the armed forces thereby enhancing their operational readiness, Army Chief General Manoj Pande said here on Wednesday India stands enabled not just for deterrence but also to undertake robust response if required. It was in apparent reference to China and Pakistan.

Speaking at the Brahmos User Meet, Pande said “Today the nation is at the cusp of transformational changes, we are witness to the growing stature of our country in the international environment and higher expectations from the world community. Our current growth and development, and the rising aspirations of our people, all reflect the confident optimism of a rising nation”

“Due to our legacy issues of unsettled borders and related



security challenges, possession of strategic deterrence instruments in our case is essential. And the three services of the defence forces as users of the Brahmos missile system, now stand enabled to not just stand deterrence but also to respond robustly when required,” the Army chief said.

Addressing the meet, IAF chief V R Chaudhari highlighted the role of BrahMos supersonic missile and said it has galvanized India’s firepower.

“As one of our most lethal air-combat assets, the BrahMos

supersonic missile has really galvanized the way we will equip ourselves with precision firepower in the coming years. Seeing the conflicts that are happening across the globe the importance of precision, long-range firepower can’t be underscored,” he said.

Chaudhari said the BrahMos missile has added to the deterrence capabilities of the IAF. “The combination of BrahMos on the Sukhoi Su-30 has really given us a tremendous capability that has enhanced our firepower. It has made the deterrence value of the IAF go up by leaps and bounds,” he said.

The Air Force Chief also said “As the situation unfolded in Northern borders three years ago, we realised that the potent weapon can be used very effectively for land attacks.” He also said smaller versions of the next-generation BrahMos missiles are being developed for fitment to other combat aircraft.

# EAM to take part in BRICS conclave in SA, make maiden visit to Namibia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will visit South Africa and Namibia starting Thursday. During his three-day visit to Capetown, he will participate in the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) conclave.

Thereafter, Jaishankar will travel to Namibia for a visit from June 4 to 6, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) here on Wednesday.

Incidentally, it will be the first visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister to Namibia.

The BRICS brings together five of the largest developing countries of the world, representing 41 per cent of the global population, 24 per cent of the global GDP and 16 per cent of the global trade.

Besides, Jaishankar will also hold a bilateral meeting with his South African counterpart Naledi Pandor.

# IAF’s Rafales carry out six-hour mission in Indian Ocean Region

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to hone combat-readiness of its Rafale jet fleet, IAF’s four Rafales recently carried out a “strategic” mission lasting more than six hours in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The sortie was a significant demonstration of the long range combat capabilities. The mission took place at a time when China has significantly increased its presence in the strategically important Indian Ocean.

Giving details of the mission, sources said here on Wednesday the Rafale jets took off from the Hasimara Air Force station in the eastern sector, carried out the mission involving various manoeuvres and simulated operations and returned to the base after meeting the desired results.

The mission by the four Rafale jets demonstrated their operational capabilities and readiness in dealing with various challenging situations, sources said but refrained from divulging details. The IAF also tweeted about the mission.

“Four IAF Rafales flew a long range mission for over six hours into the IOR. The aircraft ‘fought’ their way through a large force engagement en route to their Weapon Release Point. Pickle on time, weapon on target-the IAF way!” it said. The IAF too did not divulge the day of



the operation.

The Rafale jets are India’s first major acquisition of fighter planes in 23 years after the Sukhoi jets were imported from Russia. The French manufactured Rafale jets are capable of carrying a range of potent weapons.

At present, the IAF has 36 Rafale jets with one squadron (a squadron has 18 jets) based at Ambala to look after the western sector including China and Pakistan and the other squadron in Hasimara, West Bengal to cover the entire eastern sector facing China.

Induction process of Rafale jets started in 2020 and ended last year. India and France inked a government to government deal in 2016 for acquiring 36 Rafale jets from its manufacturer Dassault. The deal is worth over 7 billion Euros.

# Prachanda in Delhi on four-day visit to India

## Nepal PM to discuss host of issues with PM Modi; visit Ujjain, Indore

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’ arrived here on Wednesday on his first overseas visit after assuming office in December last year. He was welcomed by Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi at the airport. He is here on a four-day visit to India.

“The visit will impart renewed momentum to the close and unique India-Nepal relationship,” Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

Prachanda will hold delegation-level talks with Modi on June, according to reports from Kathmandu. The talks will be followed by a joint press meet by the two Prime Ministers. Modi will host a luncheon in honour of his counterpart from Nepal and his delegation.

Reports from Kathmandu said Prachanda will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders to further strengthen the age-old, multifaceted and cordial ties.



The visiting Prime Minister will address the Indian business community and meet the Indian President and Vice President in New Delhi. The Prime Minister is also scheduled to visit Ujjain and Indore, Madhya Pradesh after completing his engagements in New Delhi.

The two Prime Ministers will remotely inaugurate the railway yard in Birtanagar, the Jaynagar-Janakpur railway that has been expanded up to the Bijalpura, and the integrated check posts in Biratnagar and Nepalgunj, it said.

Prachanda would also raise long-term power trade issues with New Delhi, hoping that this “bottleneck” will be sorted out and ensure that the Himalayan nation will be a favourable market for its surplus energy.

# SII asks Health Min to allow in-house testing of Cy-Tb jab

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) has urged the Union Health Ministry to allow in-house testing of its Cy-Tb injection for the detection of latent tuberculosis, saying the testing facility for this product is not available in any Government lab, official sources said on Wednesday. A letter in this regard was written by Prakash Kumar Singh, Director at SII. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approved market authorisation of Cy-Tb injection on May 9, 2022, but even after a year of approval, Cy-Tb is not available in the market due to the non-availability of testing facility in any Government lab, Singh wrote. Singh is also learnt to have mentioned that Cy-Tb is important for the detection of latent TB and the Government should allow it so that the injection can be made available in India and the world at large.

# Junk food affects deep sleep, immunity: Study

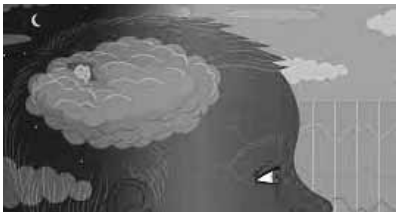
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Consuming an unhealthy diet is associated with a lower quality of deep sleep, the third stage of sleep, repairs and restores necessary functions such as memory, muscle growth, and immunity.

Researchers at Uppsala University in Sweden analysed how junk food affects sleep. Healthy participants consumed an unhealthier as well as a healthier diet in a randomised order.

The study, recently published in the journal Obesity, shows that after eating the junk food, the quality of the participants’ deep sleep deteriorated, compared with those who followed the healthier diet.

“Both poor diet and poor sleep increase the risk of several public health conditions,” said Jonathan Cedernaes, Associate Professor at Uppsala University.



A total of 15 healthy normal-weight young men participated in two sessions of the study. Participants were first screened for aspects such as their sleep habits, which had to be normal and within the recommended range of seven to nine hours per night.

The participants were randomly given both a healthier diet and an unhealthy diet. The two diets contained the same number of calories, adjusted to each individual’s daily requirements.

Among other things, the unhealthier diet contained a higher content of sugar and saturated fat and more processed food items. Each diet was consumed for a week, while the participants’ sleep, activity and meal schedules were monitored at an individual level.

“What we saw was that the participants slept for the same amount of time when they consumed the two diets. This was the case both while they were following the diets, as well as after they had switched to another, identical diet,” said Cedernaes.

The researchers looked at slow-wave activity, a measure that can reflect how restorative deep sleep is.

“Intriguingly, we saw that deep sleep exhibited less slow-wave activity when the participants had eaten junk food, compared with consumption of healthier food,” Cedernaes said.

# ‘Drugs used in age-defying Botox can cause paralysis’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Used for smoothening wrinkles, correcting frown lines, and combating the signs of aging, now it has been found that drugs applied for the Botox procedure can cause paralysis, as per a recent study by the researchers from the University of Queensland.

Botox is a toxin produced by the bacterium Clostridium botulinum. The treatment was initially developed for eye conditions such as strabismus and as a quick remedy to relieve migraine and chronic pain. However, in recent years, Botox treatment found uses in plastic

surgeries and gained popularity in the cosmetic industry.

Although muscle paralysis was a known side effect of Botox treatment, earlier research could not identify how the neurotoxin worked to relax muscles.

In the latest study, the researchers evaluated how Clostridium botulinum damages the communication between the brain neurons, resulting in paralysis.

“We used super-resolution microscopy to show that a receptor called Synaptotagmin 1 binds to two other previously known clostridial neurotoxin receptors to form a tiny complex that sits on the plas-



ma membrane of neurons,” Frederic Meunier, a lead-author of the study, said.

“The toxin hijacks this complex and enters the synaptic vesicles, which store neurotransmitters critical to the communication between neurons. Botox then interrupts the com-

munication between nerves and muscle cells, causing paralysis,” Meunier explained.

The discovery also opens the potential to identify new therapeutic targets for effective treatments of botulism--a rare but potentially fatal bacterial infection caused by Clostridium botulinum.

“Clostridial neurotoxins are among the most potent protein toxins known to humans. We now have a full picture of how these toxins are internalized to intoxicate neurons at therapeutically relevant concentrations,” Dr. Merja Joensuu, another co-researcher of the study from UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute, said.

# Meghalaya reservation: Govt reconstitutes panel

## State Law Minister to head the committee

PTI ■ SHILLONG

The Meghalaya Government has reconstituted a committee to review the state reservation policy in the backdrop of an indefinite hunger strike launched by the opposition Voice of the People's Party (VPP) seeking changes to the existing reservation formula, an official said on Wednesday.

The committee was reconstituted on Tuesday and will hold a meeting with political parties on the issue on Wednesday, he said.

The committee will be headed by the State Law Minister Ampareen Lyngdoh. A final decision on the reservation policy will, however, be taken only after Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma holds a meeting, his deputy Sniawbhalang Dhar told PTI on Wednesday.

"The issue is sensitive and needs to be discussed at length. However, it should not be discussed in the streets but across the table ... The government will take a decision with the best interests of the people



and the state in mind," he said. The VPP is raking up the reservation issue, which does not have the support of the other parties, he claimed.

The party is demanding the review of the "outdated and unfair" job reservation policy in existence in the state. A hunger strike by its president Ardent Basaiawmait here, on the issue entered its ninth day on Wednesday.

The party, which has four MLAs in the 60-member House, is demanding a review of the 40:40 job reservation for Khasi-Jaintia community and Garos. The party claims that the population of the Khasis has increased and hence there was a need for a review. The committee invited the agitating

VPP MLAs for talks on Wednesday, which was promptly refused.

Basaiawmait said the agitation will be withdrawn only if the government expresses its readiness to review the 1972 job reservation policy which awarded 40 per cent of reserved jobs to Garos, 40 per cent for Khasi-Jaintia tribes, 5 per cent for other tribes and 15 per cent for general category candidates.

"Our stand was made clear to the government. I will not leave the venue (of the hunger strike) till the government agrees to review the job reservation policy," he said. Dhar criticised Basaiawmait's absence at the all-political party meeting on Tuesday last week which was chaired by Sangma.

A government-instituted committee on reservation roster had met on Monday too but the VPP and several organisations did not attend it. Lyngdoh said the committee will inform the government on the need for a discussion since there is a demand to review the reservation policy.

# Af-made cooker IED found in anti-infiltration op

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Famous Afghan pots, made of aluminium and used for cooking delicious recipes, have now been introduced by the Pakistan based terrorist handlers to trigger powerful explosions targeting security convoys inside the Indian territory.

On Wednesday one such pressure cooker, made in Afghanistan, was recovered by the Indian troops after they successfully foiled a major infiltration bid along the line of control in Poonch.

The IED weighed approximately 10 Kgs and had markings of a local manufacturer identified as Pir Baba, makers of Afghan Pressure cookers.

Indian army troops also managed to apprehend three terrorists after a brief exchange of firing in which one of the jawans also received injuries.

According to a Jammu based Defence Spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Devender Anand, "during the intervening night of May 30-31 a joint team of security forces intercepted a group of terrorists attempting to infiltrate inside the Indian territory taking advantage of the bad weather conditions and heavy rains in the region". Lt Col Anand said, "around 1.30 a.m when an Indian army ambush challenged the group of terrorists they were fired



upon. In the retaliatory firefight terrorists received injuries. The blood trails have been traced in the forward area", he added.

The Defence Spokesman said, during the search operations in the area the security forces apprehended three terrorists with some weapons, war like stores including one pressure cooker IED and packets of narcotics.

During their preliminary interrogation the apprehended terrorists revealed their sinister plot to target the security forces with the help of pressure

cooker IED. One Indian Army soldier was injured in the ensuing firing and has been evacuated. Search operations are in progress, the defence spokesman added.

The security forces have recovered 01x AK-56 Rifle with balance 10 rounds in the magazine( rest ammunition has been fired by the terrorist who is subsequently injured), 02 x Pistol with 02 x Magazines and 70 rounds, 01x IED of approx 10-12 kg, 06 x Chinese Grenades and 20 Packets of Narcotics.

# NIA raids 51 J&K areas to nip new ultra groups

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday cracked down once again on the newly floated terrorist outfits in Jammu and Kashmir, and seized incriminating literature and several digital devices.

The searches were conducted in three locations in the Kashmir Valley at the residential premises of sympathisers/cadres, hybrid terrorists and Over Ground Workers (OGWs) linked with the newly-formed offshoots and affiliates of several proscribed

Pakistan-backed terror outfits, such as Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al-Badr and Al-Qaeda among others, the NIA said in a statement here.

"The day-long raids and searches were conducted at locations in Srinagar and Budgam districts, as part of the ongoing NIA investigations into the activities of the recently formed terrorist groups, including The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (ULFJ&K), Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind

(MGH), Jammu & Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF), Kashmir Tigers and PAAF," the agency said. As many as 51 locations have been searched recently in connection with the terror conspiracy case which was registered suo moto by NIA on June 21, 2022.

The case relates to hatching of a conspiracy, both physical and in cyber space, and plans by the proscribed terrorist organisations to unleash violent terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir with sticky bombs, IEDs and small arms. The plans are part of a

larger conspiracy to carry out acts of terror and violence, by radicalising local youth and mobilising overground workers, to disturb the peace and communal harmony of Jammu and Kashmir.

Cadres and workers of the newly formed outfits have been found to be involved in the collection and distribution of sticky bombs/magnetic bombs, IEDs, funds, narcotic substances and arms/ammunition, it said. Such outfits are spreading its wings relating to terror, violence and subversion in Jammu and Kashmir, the NIA probe has revealed.

# Govt committed to implement guarantees in K'taka, vows Sidda

## Cabinet will take a call on June 2

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Asserting that his government will implement the five poll guarantees promised ahead of the assembly polls, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said officials have shared their inputs on financial implications, and the cabinet will meet on June 2 to decide on the implementation.

The cabinet meeting was earlier scheduled for June 1.

In view of the implementation of guarantees, the Chief Minister today held a meeting with all the Ministers and senior officials of the concerned departments at Vidhana Soudha, the seat of state secretariat and legislature, here.

"We had given five guarantees to the people, regarding these five guarantees concerned officials and finance department officials have made a presentation together. All the Ministers have seen the presentation, it has all the details -- proposals and financial implications of the implementation," Siddaramaiah said.

Speaking to reporters here after the meeting, the CM said, "we have not discussed in today's meeting, discussion and decision will be on the day after. On Friday at 11 AM, I have convened the cabinet meeting, where we will discuss, and after that our decision will be made known to you."

"But, the government has taken a call to implement all the five guarantees. It is a guarantee that we will implement the guarantees," he added.

The Congress had promised to implement the 'guarantees' - 200 units of free power to all households (Gruha Jyoti), Rs 2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (Gruha Lakshmi), 10 kg of rice free to every member of a BPL household (Anna



Bhagya), Rs 3,000 every month for unemployed graduate youth and Rs 1,500 for unemployed diploma holders (both in the age group of 18-25) (YuvaNidhi), and free travel for women in public transport buses (Shakti), on the very first day of assuming power in the state.

There is mounting pressure on the new government from opposition parties and various sections of people from across the state, to fulfill its five guarantees as promised ahead of polls.

Asked whether the five guarantees will be implemented at once or one after the other, the CM said, "All those things have not been decided yet, it will be discussed and decided in the cabinet."

To a query about BJP's criticism, he said, "let BJP (central govt) fulfill whatever they had promised, before questioning us. We will implement what we had promised, we had implemented earlier too, we will do it even now."

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar told media that officials shared inputs in today's meeting and also gave four to five options regarding the implementation of the guarantees, and what would be the financial impact.

"We are committed to implementing the guarantees, no doubts on that. Following officials sharing their opinion and inputs, some of us (Ministers) have also shared our view, and we have asked officials to rework and present it before the cabinet. As they sought time, there is no cabinet tomorrow, it has been postponed by a day -- to Friday.

# Maha renames Ahmednagar dist after Ahilyadevi Holkar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a major announcement made on the occasion of 298th birth anniversary of queen of Malwa kingdom Ahilyadevi Holkar, Maharashtra Chief Minister Shinde said here on Wednesday that the Ahmednagar district would be renamed Ahilyadevi Holkar Nagar' in her memory. Simultaneously, State Health Minister Girish Mahajan announced the naming of a new government medical college at the NCP chief Sharad Pawar's home town of Baramati in Pune district after Ahilyadevi Holkar.

Speaking at a function organised on the 298th birth anniversary of Ahilyadevi Holkar at her native village of Chaundi that he and deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis attended, Shinde

made a formal announcement about the re-christening of Ahmednagar district as Ahilyadevi Holkar Nagar'

Ahilyadevi, the Holkar Queen of the Maratha Malwa kingdom who is known for building temples and 'dharas-mashalas' throughout India, was born in Chaundi in Ahmednagar district on May 31, 1795. She ruled the Malwa kingdom from 1767 to 1795.

Minutes after Fadnavis expressed desire that Ahmednagar district be renamed as 'Ahilyadevi Holkar Nagar', Shinde said: "All of us want Ahmednagar district be renamed after Ahilyadevi Holkar. Keeping that in view, I announce that the state government is renaming Ahmednagar district 'Ahilyadevi Holkar Nagar'" Heaping praise on Ahilyadevi Holkar, Fadnavis said: "If

Rajamata Ahilyadevi Holkar weren't there, Kashi wouldn't have remained in a form it is today. If she wasn't there, we wouldn't have temples of Lord Shiva. That's why people want Ahmednagar renamed Ahilyanagar". "We are the people who chant the name of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. We have renamed Aurangabad as Sambhajinagar under your (Shinde's) leadership, we have renamed Osmanabad as Dharashiv.

The chief minister himself is 'mawala' (soldier) of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. That being the case, Ahmednagar will be renamed as Ahilyanagar," the deputy chief minister said. Later in his speech, Shinde said: "Ahilyadevi's maiden name is Shinde. Even I am a Shinde. ....Ahilyadevi Holkar is an inspiration for all of us.

## ED's 'BIGGEST CATCH' IN JOB-FOR-CASH SCAM

# Suvendu: Mamata must explain her kin's role in teacher recruitment scam

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday demanded an explanation from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee regarding some of her family members' suspected role in the multi-crore recruitment scam.

This, a day after the Enforcement Directorate arresting Sujay Bhadra popularly known as Kalighater kaku or the Uncle of Kalighat — considered the "biggest catch till now".

Bhadra's arrest is being considered as more important than that of former Bengal Education Minister and number two in the Mamata Banerjee Cabinet Partha Chatterjee, thanks to his alleged close links with some of the members of the Chief Minister's family.

"It has come to light that Kaku was the CEO and a director of the Leaps and Bounds company of which many members of the Banerjee family like Amit Banerjee, Rujira Banerjee, Lata Banerjee were directors ... as they are the closest relations of the Chief Minister, she now owes an explanation regarding the scam or scams that had been taking place in Bengal," Adhikari said.

Alleging that the Chief Minister was the fountainhead of all the scams, Adhikari said Bhadra's arrest had made it clear that the Agencies had reached till the chest level ... now you have to reach the ear ... then pull it to get to the head," adding, "Mamata



Banerjee is the queen of all the evils that have been taking place in Bengal." Sources in the ED said that scam money flowed into Bhadra's companies via two routes: first the money that came from cow, sand and coal smuggling and second, the money that came in from the recruitment scam. From Bhadra it went further up. Bhadra had earlier claimed that TMC national general secretary

Abhishek Banerjee was his "boss" and he worked in his company — of which Banerjee, his wife Rujira, uncle and aunt Amit and Lata Banerjee were directors. Bhadra who worked in the company since 2009 too was a director in the company and enjoyed the powers of the chief executive officer, insiders said.

Bhadra had also said that "no power on earth can reach up to my boss because he never receives phone calls ... does not transact with anyone ... so all the investigation will come and stop at my door steps." The ED while seeking 14-days' remand of Bhadra told the court that he functioned as a prime link between the State's topmost family and the scamsters who collected money from all over the State from the job-seekers.

# TMC hits the streets in favour of grapplers

**Kolkata:** Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday hit the streets against the alleged manhandling of wrestlers in Delhi when they were trying to move towards new Parliament building on Sunday. The new parliament building was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday amid boycott by a large number of opposition parties.

Banerjee, who had on Tuesday criticized the alleged police attack on the wrestlers "who had brought fame to our country," led a 2-km procession from Hazra Road in south Kolkata to Rabindra Sadan.

Players and functionaries of Kolkata's big three clubs — Mohan Bagan Club, East Bengal Club and Mohammedan Sporting Club — took part in the rally. Iterating that the rally would continue on Thursday too Banerjee said, "We are with the wrestlers in their fight and so we



have taken out this rally which will continue tomorrow also ... Wrestlers are the pride of our country." Wondering as to why the person who had been "accused of physical assault" on wrestlers was not being arrested Banerjee had said on Tuesday, that people (BJP leaders) who were busy in Puja Paath (worship) had forgotten that such holy activities suit only those people who worship humanity.

Banerjee, who has no love lost with the BJP Government is likely to attend the meeting of the opposition leaders this month in Patna. "I am with all those parties that oppose the BJP and will support them," subject to conditions of reciprocation, Banerjee had said. **PNS**

# India, China hold 27th meeting to resolve border dispute

**New Delhi:** In the backdrop of tension prevailing at the border in Ladakh for the last more than three years, India and China on Wednesday held the 27th Meeting of the Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border affairs (WMCC). The meeting at the diplomatic level was held here in person, the ministry of external affairs said here. Joint Secretary (East Asia) from MEA led the Indian Delegation.

The Chinese delegation was led by the Director General of Boundary and Oceanic Affairs Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two sides reviewed the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Western Sector of the India-China border areas and discussed proposals for disengagement in remaining areas in a frank and open manner.

Restoration of peace and tranquillity will create conditions for normalising bilateral relations. In order to achieve this objective, in accordance with existing bilateral agreements and protocols, they agreed to hold next (19th) round of Senior Commander's meeting at an early date. The two sides agreed to continue discussions through military and diplomatic channels. **PNS**

# Few legislators from Shinde group in touch with Uddhav Sena, claims Sanjay Raut

**Mumbai:** Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Wednesday claimed some lawmakers from the Shiv Sena headed by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde were in touch with the Uddhav Thackeray-led party.

His remarks came a day after an editorial in the Shiv Sena (UBT) mouthpiece 'Saamana' claimed 22 MLAs and nine MPs from rival Shiv Sena were feeling suffocated due to "step-motherly treatment" by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and could quit the group led by CM Shinde.

Asked whether lawmakers from the rival Sena camp are in touch with the Shiv Sena (UBT), Raut, who is the party's spokesperson, told reporters here, "Communication is always there. They (those from Shinde camp) ventilate their grievance, but it is not right to tell this pub-

licly. They have made a mistake (to leave Uddhav Thackeray) and they have to handle it." "Those in the Shinde group will have to contest on the BJP symbol. This is the stand of the BJP. We have this information," the Rajya Sabha member further said.

Latching on to Shiv Sena MP Gajanan Kirtikar's remark that his party was getting step-motherly treatment, the editorial in 'Saamana' on Tuesday dubbed the Shinde group MLAs and MPs as "hens and cocks" imprisoned in the BJP's coop and added that it cannot be said when they could be slaughtered.

The Thackeray-headed Shiv Sena (then undivided) exited National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 2019 and joined hands with Congress and Nationalist Congress Party to form a government in Maharashtra. **PTI**

# Modi, Shah, Nadda to address rallies in Bengal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Apparently as an answer to Trinamool Congress number two Abhishek Banerjee's Jan Sanyog Yatra and a measure to give the saffron outfit an organizational fillip ahead of the panchayat elections, the BJP too is planning a month-long Jan Sampark Yatra which will be highlighted by three high-profile meetings to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda. The Yatra will

continue throughout the month of June when the top three leaders of BJP will hold three rallies in Bengal. "There will be three rallies: one in north Bengal, one in central Bengal and one in southern Bengal," State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar on Wednesday said.

"Our party will have 1,000 micro level meetings in all the 294 mandals of the State," said Majumdar adding the party would declare dates of the three high-profile meetings after those are confirmed from Delhi.



Tribal people of Manipur take part in a 'Tribal Solidarity protest' against the ongoing tension in the state, at Jantar Mantar, in New Delhi, on Wednesday **PTI**



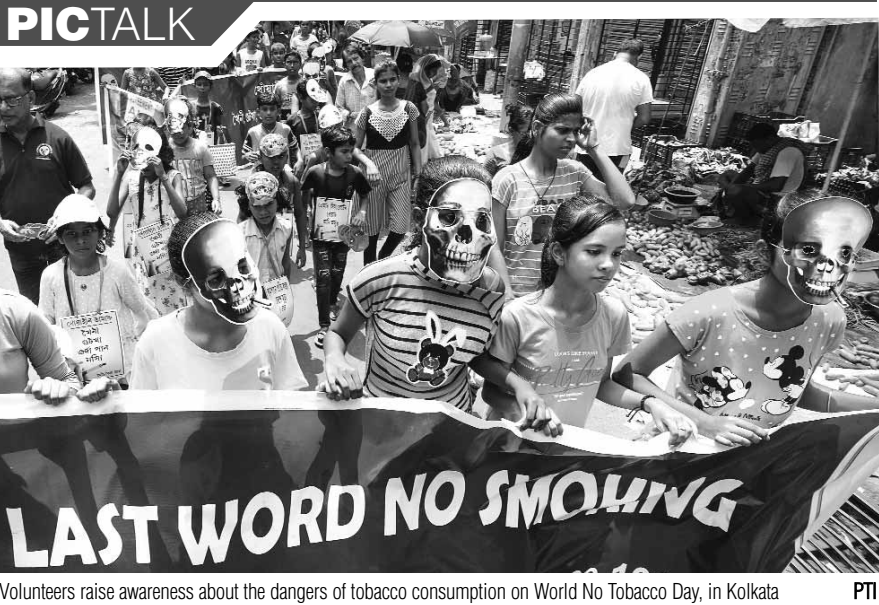
# Check hyperbole

## Rahul mocks and slams PM Modi at a gathering of Indian diaspora in San Francisco, US

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is at it again: he has lambasted and lampooned Prime Minister Narendra Modi on foreign soil. Addressing a gathering of Indian diaspora in San Francisco, US, he ridiculed Modi for having the pretensions of being omniscient. In fact, he mocked the top leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party of being delusional about their knowledge: “some groups of India think that they know everything. Even if they have a conversation with God, they might explain to him.” He added, “Prime Minister is one of them.” Deriding BJP leaders, Rahul continued: “They can speak to scientists and explain science to them. They can explain history to historians, warfare to the army and flying to the air force. But at the heart of it, they don’t know anything.” Barbed sarcasm can be effective, but Rahul seems to be going too far. His claim that the “normal instruments for doing politics were not working anymore.” He also blamed the Modi Government for threatening people and deploying Central agencies against political opponents. The use of law enforcement bodies to harass the Opposition is old in India; the present dispensation is no exception. But should the underbelly of our country be put on showcase? There is much that is wrong with governance and other aspects of India, but a senior Opposition leader advertising that in the United States doesn’t make much sense. Rahul may succeed in scoring a few political points, but not without damage to India’s image in the world.



To that extent, the BJP’s sharp reaction to his remarks is justified. Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said, “During his foreign visits, Rahul Gandhi insults India, which is unacceptable. He wants to insult PM Modi but ends up insulting India, questioning India’s progress. He is trying to tarnish India at a time the world is acknowledging our growing stature.” Just as in Rahul’s comment, there is also an element of hyperbole in Thakur’s reaction too. Rahul’s remarks are bad for India’s image, but not an insult. Besides, Congress leaders are not the only ones who discuss domestic matters abroad; PM Modi has also criticised previous governments on foreign soil in the past. Indian politicians will do well by scaling down the ingredient of hyperbole in political debate. Gruesome murder of a minor girl in Delhi doesn’t mean that there is no fear of the police in the national capital; unjust arrest of a journalist doesn’t imply that the entire press has been gagged in the country; India leaving the UK behind in terms of GDP doesn’t mean that we have become a developed nation. Also, politicians should grow a thicker skin; every adverse comment their adversaries make against them shouldn’t become an excuse to indulge in rant and cant. And they should also ensure that domestic political disputes are not internationalised.



Volunteers raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco consumption on World No Tobacco Day, in Kolkata

# Costly higher education a problem

## The escalating cost of education is denying higher education to students who wish to pursue it but cannot afford its prohibitive cost

Baban Bhagat, from Chand Kewari village in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar, works as a daily wage labourer in the nearby town. His meagre income barely covers the subsistence needs of his family, let alone the educational aspirations of his two sons. While his elder son’s academic journey abruptly ended after completing Class 12, his younger son, due to lack of money, just managed to get enrolled in Class 12. “I have tried my best to provide education to both my sons, but our financial circumstances render it impossible for me to bear the equivalent expenses for both of them, even for an undergraduate program at an ordinary institution,” lamented Baban. Presently, his elder son, a high school graduate, has also become a labourer, trapped in the same cycle of limited opportunities.

A recent official survey reveals how a significant increase in education expenditure in India, has placed a substantial financial burden on households. Particularly for those households from rural areas with minimal income, educating their chil-



dren becomes a burden than an investment, especially when it comes to girls. According to Pankaj Kumar, a resident of the same village, due to prevailing poverty, most children can only study up to the 10th or 12th standard. With the increase in enrollment and examination fees for graduation in government colleges, dropout rates have further aggravated. Awadhesh Kumar Das who works as a teacher in a private school in Muzaffarpur, emphasized that children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds face significant challenges when it comes to pursuing education in fields like engineering, medicine, or enrolling in coaching classes for exams like the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) or Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC). This difficulty stems from the increasing privatization of

educational institutions. In recent times, several reports have raised concerns about the potential impact of the New Education Policy on the privatization of higher education, leading to increased costs that could make education unaffordable for many students. According to a report, the National Education Policy is designed to support a neo-colonial economic order, favouring those from affluent backgrounds while potentially discriminating against the poor and oppressed. Addressing similar concerns, Devesh Chandra, the former District Councilor of Muzaffarpur, expressed his apprehension that the new education policy could make it increasingly difficult for underprivileged children to access higher education. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive policy that ensures equal educational opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their socio-economic background. On the other hand, Ajay Kumar Singh, the District Education Officer of Muzaffarpur, reassures that the new education policy is designed to provide equi-

table education to everyone. Whereas highlighting on dropping out of girls from higher education, Dr Shri Bhagwan Rai, an Assistant Professor at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, believes the government and parents share equal responsibility for this situation. “The government can be held accountable for the expensive nature of education, as it has become a major obstacle for girls to pursue higher education. Additionally, parents cannot be absolved of their role in perpetuating gender disparities by treating the education of boys and girls differently,” the Professor expressed. The escalating cost of education has undoubtedly presented formidable challenges for individuals seeking higher education, particularly impacting girls. It is crucial to recognize that girls are disproportionately affected by these financial barriers and encounter significant limitations in the absence of accessible, free, and affordable education. (The writer is Charkha’s Volunteer Trainer) Charkha Feature



SAPNA KUMARI

PM Modi Ji also effectively utilized global platforms to showcase Indian culture, values, and ethos. By wearing recycled materials at the G7 and the Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC), and hosting a lunch for FIPIC leaders featuring Indian cuisine and millet-based items, PM Modi Ji showcased India’s commitment to sustainability. Hiroshima which was the first to face atomic bombing in the history of mankind, today serves as the most fitting setting for commemorating the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and PM Modi Ji’s unveiling his bust in this historic city symbolises the message of non-violence that Gandhi ji stood for. Also, the release of the timeless Tamil classic, “Thirukkural,” in the Tok Pisin language, was an effort to bring Indian thought and culture closer to the people of Papua New Guinea. In his engagements with industry leaders, scientists, academicians, and cultural icons, PM Modi Ji positioned India as the world’s preferred investment destination, fostering economic growth and job creation. Nobel Laureate Brian Paul Schmidt, who met the PM, highlighted India’s scientific prowess and its ability to undertake world-class

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

PRANNOY HAS BROKEN THE JINX Sir — After the USA open title six years ago, in the 2017 Grand Prix, India’s top-ranked men’s badminton player HS Prannoy has broken the jinx of being a giant killer without lifting the trophy by winning the Malaysia Masters 2023 crown. Although Prannoy has beaten contemporary stalwarts like Viktor Axelsen, Taufiq Hidayat, and Chen Long to name only a few, a big trophy consistently eluded him till the win at Kuala Lumpur. Even there, things seem to go awry for the Indian as China’s Weng Hongyang came from behind to equalise at 18-18 in the final set, but Prannoy recouped to have the last laugh. All along, after 2017, the lingering feeling was that despite oodles of talent the 30-year-old was mysteriously unable to click at the right moment when it mattered most.

Ganapathi Bhat | Kolkata

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

# Modi’s charisma transcends borders

## PM Modi’s recent tour of Japan, Papua New Guinea and Australia can be seen as a marker of his growing popularity and influence

In a world filled with diverse cultures, ideologies, and ambitions, PM Modi Ji’s engagements have gone beyond the realm of mere diplomacy, becoming more of a celebration of India’s global leadership and cultural heritage.

The immense respect and goodwill that the world leaders feel for India and its leader, PM Modi Ji is reflected in their various extraordinary gestures—be it President Biden seeking his autograph or Prime Minister James Marape of Papua New Guinea showing his respect by touching PM Modi’s feet at the airport or Australian PM Albanese referring to PM Modi as ‘The Boss’.

The New Zealand Prime Minister specially came all the way down to Papua New Guinea to meet our leader, demonstrating a deep appreciation for India’s leadership. All these countries may have varying opinions on several issues, but such heartfelt gestures highlight PM Modi Ji’s popularity and India’s growing stature.

Several unprecedented honours came India’s way too. The highest awards of Papua New Guinea (Companion of the Order of Logohu) and Fiji (Companion of the Order of Fiji) were conferred upon PM Modi Ji, symbolizing his tireless efforts in championing the unity of Pacific Island countries and spearheading the cause of the Global South. Papua New Guinea’s Prime Minister, James Marape, referred to PM Modiji as the ‘leader of the Global South’. These accolades firmly establish PM Modi Ji’s standing as an international leader and further enhance India’s reputation on the world stage.

At the community reception in Australia, leaders of all hues—the Australian PM – accompanied by the Leader of the Opposition, Foreign Minister, former Prime Minister, and several other ministers – walked hand in hand with PM Modi Ji. The illumination of the Sydney Opera House in the colours of the Indian flag, and the renaming of Harris Park to Little India further emphasize the influence of India and its diaspora in Australia.

Great Push for Indian Culture, Values, and Ethos.



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Also, the release of the timeless Tamil classic, “Thirukkural,” in the Tok Pisin language, was an effort to bring Indian thought and culture closer to the people of Papua New Guinea. In his engagements with industry leaders, scientists, academicians, and cultural icons, PM Modi Ji positioned India as the world’s preferred investment destination, fostering economic growth and job creation.

Nobel Laureate Brian Paul Schmidt, who met the PM, highlighted India’s scientific prowess and its ability to undertake world-class

## A GOOD OMEN FOR CONGRESS!

Sir — Given that its warring stalwarts namely poll-bound Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot have decided to put their longstanding issues on the back burner for the time being in the party’s interests. After a meeting between the Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and former chief Rahul Gandhi, also participated by Mr Gehlot and Pilot, the latter duo said that the central leadership will decide on the problems between them after the upcoming significant assembly polls in the Congress-ruled Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh are over. This rapprochement might help the grand old party replicate its Karnataka landslide win in the rest of the States, going to polls as also in next year’s Lok Sabha polls.

However, the Congress, the AAP and the TMC being on different page vis-a-vis The Congress’ inclusion in the proposed United Opposition Front driving at taking on the BJP in the grand finale unitedly, the scenario seems to be going in the BJP’s favour.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

## PRANNOY HAS BROKEN THE JINX

Sir — After the USA open title six years ago, in the 2017 Grand Prix, India’s top-ranked men’s badminton player HS Prannoy has broken the jinx of being a giant killer without lifting the trophy by winning the Malaysia Masters 2023 crown. Although Prannoy has beaten contemporary stalwarts like Viktor Axelsen, Taufiq Hidayat, and Chen Long to name only a few, a big trophy consistently eluded him till the win at Kuala Lumpur. Even there, things seem to go awry for the Indian as China’s Weng Hongyang came from behind to equalise at 18-18 in the final set, but Prannoy recouped to have the last laugh. All along, after 2017, the lingering feeling was that despite oodles of talent the 30-year-old was mysteriously unable to click at the right moment when it mattered most.



THE WORLD TODAY LOOKS AT INDIA WITH AWE AND RESPECT. UNDER PM MODI ‘S LEADERSHIP, INDIA’S ASCENT TO BECOMING THE 5TH LARGEST ECONOMY HAS BEEN SWIFT AND PROMISES PEACE, OPPORTUNITY, DEVELOPMENT, AND SUSTAINABILITY

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### They are super kings!



The IPL meant CSK aka Chennai Super Kings for many cricket lovers. There is a worthy reason why this team is titled Super Kings. Yes, they are the super kings of the Indian Premier League, as recently the team clinched the Fifth trophy marking one of a kind triumph for itself. MS Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja and Kadami like legendary stars proved that old is gold for IPL.

Nerves said many, temperament said some, but Prannoy overcame all to finally come up with trumps.

The Indian champion has, however, continuously ranked within the top ten in the world. From number nine, now he is ranked seven. En route to the Malaysia Masters title, the hero of India’s 2022 Thomas Cup win had the better of All England Champion Chinese Li Shifeng in round 16 and almost pipped Indonesian Christian Adinata who retired hurt in the semis. Again big names were scalped by Prannoy; the only difference this time was that he went all the way to finish at the top. After Prakash Padukone and Pullela Gopichand, no Indian has been able to lift the All-England title. Lakshya Sen came within striking distance of the crown but fell at the final hurdle in 2022.

Ganapathi Bhat | Kolkata

## PROOF OF POPULARITY

Sir — If any foreign leader touches the feet of any Indian leader or issues any



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

research. “PM Modi is one of the most visible leaders that India has had in my lifetime. He takes an interest in whoever he talks to, whether it’s the President of USA or someone he meets for first time from society. India’s ability to do world class science has become an order of magnitude higher,” he told reporters after the meeting. In Professor Toby Walsh’s words, India is “absolutely world’s most extraordinary democracy. UPI is a wonderful example of how India can do things itself” During his diplomatic parleys in the Quad, FIPIC, and G7 summits, the Prime Minister underscored India’s active role in shaping the global agenda and fostering collaborations among nations. He interacted with over two dozen world leaders throughout his visits. The community event in Sydney was attended by around 20 thousand people. In contrast to some leaders who blame others or badmouth the country, PM Modi Ji’s speech singularly focussed on the India Story, highlighting its progress, achievements, and aspirations. From Japan to Papua New Guinea and Australia, the newspaper headlines widely featured PM Modi Ji, capturing the collective attention and fascination of readers everywhere. The world today looks at India with awe and respect. Under PM Modi Ji’s leadership, India’s ascent to becoming the 5th largest economy has been swift and promises peace, opportunity, development, and sustainability.

Opposition politicians, like Rahul Gandhi, have developed a regrettable habit of resorting to abuse and falsehoods. They regularly undermine India’s image, and our democracy and heap insults on our Prime Minister, our government and also our nation and leave no stones unturned to downplay India’s staggering achievements. By this, they are doing a huge disservice to the nation and people will never forgive them.

PM Modi Ji’s leadership, diplomacy, and vision have strengthened international relations, garnered admiration from world leaders, attracted investments, and fuelled economic expansion. Without indulging in such petty politicking, we all must work together for India’s progress, celebrate its growth and development, in line with the Prime Minister’s principle of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas.

(The writer is MoS, Electronics & Information Technology, )

statement in praise of him, religiously it needs to be portrayed as the “ultimate proof” of his “worldwide popularity and the “impeccable stature” being enjoyed by him in the international sphere! However, when internationally reputed newspapers and journalists speak of the deluge of intolerance as being practised during the “regime” of “Good Days” the “saffron mainstream” immediately brands it as “colonial mindset” and “conspiracy” of the West! As far as the mindset of “Head I win, Tail You Lose” is concerned, the sycophants simply have nopeers!

It is high time these set of hypocrites be sternly told that mere popularity does not necessarily bear proof of one’s “greatness” “efficiency” or “success”. Also, utterances repeated long shrill and continuous enough do not render utter falsehood into “truth”!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata



FIRST COLUMN

EFFICACY OF SATSANG MUST BE UNDERSTOOD

Satsang is association with good people; It is also about the inner quality of ‘sattva’ or purity



It was a desolate sight to see my nonagenarian grandmother. A deeply religious person whose life was dedicated to the Almighty, she lay afflicted by Alzheimer’s, in an incapacitated condition in a small nursing home in Bangalore. There was just a nurse to attend to her needs. Misty-eyed, I entered the room along with two gentlemen. Grandma was quite unexpectedly injected with vital prana as she stared at us. “Moorty garu!” she exclaimed, much to the astonishment of the nurse who was involved in an animated conversation with Moorty garu. As we left, my grandmother looked forlorn and her benefactor blessed her. A somnolent 94-year-old woman abruptly awakening upon seeing Shri VSR Moorty, obviously meant that the satsangs he rendered were exemplary. There was one rendition of the Narada Bhakti sutras at our house in Hyderabad which is etched in my memory bank. The year was 2014 and it was a crisp and cool morning in early November. I was posted in Secunderabad on South Central Railway. As I was poring over files, I walked Shri VSR Moorty. Moorty Garu focused his attention on my computer screen. Pictures of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar were flipping across the monitor. He looked at Gurudev’s photograph quite intently and uttered, “Ravi, I would like to have an interaction with Gururji.” This interaction or satsang would be recorded by Sri Venkateswara Bhakti Channel (SVBC). My jaws fell in astonishment. Millions of devotees of Gurudev wait to have a glimpse of the Master and I had this onerous task of organising an interaction with the Master himself. But that is a challenge for any seeker and I promptly sent a mail to the Master and his secretariat seeking an appointment.



He then shared, “Ravi, the Sankalpa needs to be pure, rest Almighty God will take ensure that things fall in place, Sai Ram.” I was stunned that evening when the Secretariat agreed to fix the appointment at such short notice. We made the peregrination to the Bangalore Ashram of the Art of Living along with the staff from SVBC. For three days and three nights, we were witness to something transcendental. The interaction ranged on a variety of subjects from ancient Hindu practices, and various schools of Hindu philosophy to the present day. It is well-nigh impossible to decode the divine and pen the interaction. A senior teacher of the Art of Living, Shri Vinod Menon was to tell Moorty Garu, “This is the closest one could unravel divinity, you are indeed blessed, coming so close to the Divine.” In the amphitheatre on my mind the graphic scene of BR Chopra’s Mahabharata, the television serial played out, where Lord Krishna tells Bhishma, “Arjun woh nar hai jo Narayan ke darshan karwayega.” (That is, Arjuna is the person who will be the medium to reveal the resplendence of Narayana himself). So, this was satsang. . . . What does one mean by Satsang? (I quote Yogapedia to describe Satsang) Satsang is a Sanskrit term derived from two roots: sat meaning true and sangha meaning community, company, or association. It can be translated as “associating with good people” or simply “being in the company of truth.” It refers to the act of gathering like-minded, uplifting people, especially those on a spiritual path. Satsang is associated with the inner quality of sattva (goodness or purity), which is one of the three gunas (natural attributes) alongside rajas (passion) and tamas (inactivity). A sattvic person makes a natural Satsangi, or “seeker of truth.” So let us all be satsangis in quest of the quintessential truth. (The writer is an author and a spiritual teacher)

Rs 2k note exchange: Demonetisation 2.0

Rs 2000 note exchange will not have any impact on black money. It will only help hoarders by exchanging Rs 2000 notes without disclosing their identity



In its decision to withdraw Rs 2000 currency notes from circulation announced on May 19, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has stated that they will continue to be legal tender. The notification issued in this regard states:- “...in pursuance of the “Clean Note Policy” of the RBI it has been decided to withdraw the Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation. The banknotes in Rs 2000 denomination will continue to be legal tender.”

From the above, prima facie one gets a sense that it is not a demonetization exercise as it happened over six years ago when, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared on November 8, 2016, that Rs 500 and Rs 1000 denomination currency notes won’t be legal tender with immediate effect.

If not demonetization then, what is?

Is it merely a “Clean Note Policy” - as the RBI puts it? The central banks’ argument runs something like this: high denomination notes such as Rs 2000 is normally avoided for cash transactions. Yet, these had to be brought in following the note ban of 2016 to address the logistics of swapping the mammoth old Rs 500/1000 notes for new currency within a short time frame and thus minimize economic disruption. Nearly 90 per cent of the Rs 2000 notes valued at Rs 673,000 crore at their peak as on March 31, 2018, were issued from November 8, 2016, to March 31, 2017.

The intent was to phase them out after the RBI had pumped in a sufficient stock of lower denomination Rs 500 (albeit new) notes to meet the transactional requirements of the economy.

Already, the stock of Rs 2000 notes has declined from Rs 673,000 crore representing 37.3 per cent of notes in circulation on March 31, 2018, to Rs 362,000 crore constituting only 10.8 per cent of notes in circulation on March 31, 2023. Further, these being at the end of their estimated



THE CIRCULAR ALSO ALLOWS A PERSON TO DEPOSIT RS 2000 NOTES INTO HIS BANK ACCOUNT WITHOUT ANY LIMIT. FOR DEPOSITS ABOVE A SPECIFIED LIMIT, THE BANK IS REQUIRED TO REPORT TO THE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT

(The writer is a policy analyst)

lifespan of 4 - 5 years and the stock of Rs 500 denominations adequate to meet the currency requirement of the public, it was logical to completely phase out the Rs 2000 note.

The RBI circular says that beginning May 23, 2023, the public may deposit Rs 2,000 banknotes into their bank accounts and or exchange them with banknotes of other denominations up to a limit of ten notes of Rs 20,000 value ‘at a time’ in banks until September 30, 2023. The facility for the exchange will also be provided at the 19 Regional Offices (ROs) of RBI having Issue Departments.

First, holders of Rs 2000 notes get 131 days to get rid of them which is two-and-a-half times the time given to the holders of Rs 500/1000 notes in 2016 i.e. 52 days to exchange them with the new currency. Second, Rs 2000 notes are only 10.8 per cent of the currency in circulation value-wise (as of March 31, 2023) against old Rs 500/1000 notes being a whopping 86 per cent of the corresponding figure in 2016, this time the load on the system is much less.

Can we simply treat this as a routine exercise?

At a fundamental level, the ‘withdrawal’ of the Rs 2000 banknotes - an exercise that the RBI hopes will get consummated on September 30, 2023 - doesn’t gel with its reiteration that these notes will remain legal tender even after September 30. Imagine a scenario whereby all of the Rs 2000 notes come back to the banks by this deadline then, any talk of whether it will remain legal tender is irrelevant. Look at it from another angle.

If, the intention is to maintain the legal status of the Rs 2000 note even after September 30, 2023, implying that it will continue to be accepted for settlement of payments, then why would holders come forward for exchange or deposit in the bank account? To understand the real intent behind the RBI move, we need to know to what use Rs 2000 notes worth Rs 362,000 crore (as on March 31, 2023) are being put. Do these support legitimate economic activity or people are simply using them to ‘hoard their unaccounted income? It can’t be the former; had it been the case then, given the RBI issuing predominantly Rs 500 notes after March 31, 2017, Rs 2000 notes would have disappeared by now.

The bulk of these notes are likely held as black money. Daily reports of enforcement agencies raids yielding a mountain of cash from the premises of dubious bureaucrats, politicians, businesspersons and so on confirm this. Unfortunately, the measures outlined in the RBI circular and subsequent clarifications given by the governor and public sector banks (PSBs) such as the State Bank of India (SBI) fail to address this menace.

The RBI allows a person to exchange Rs 2,000 banknotes with other denominations up to a limit of ten notes of Rs 20,000 value ‘at a time’ in banks. While exchanging he is not required to share his identity. This means he can visit a branch any number of times in a day and increase the value of exchange. By doing say ten trips, he can get rid of Rs 2 lakhs worth of black money in a day. If this is repeated for 131 days, he can dis-

pose of Rs 262 lakh.

Under such an arrangement which doesn’t insist on the identity at the time of exchange, a person holding say Rs 100 crore in Rs 2000 notes as ‘unaccounted cash’ can get this exchanged with smaller denominations of Rs 500/100 notes by hiring a number of persons to visit branches of any number of banks and repeat for over 4 months. With anonymity preserved, he could go for a less tedious process. He could simply conspire with the bank manager - under a quid pro quo - to have those Rs 100 crore exchanged. All that the latter needs to do is to show in records multiple entries of Rs 20,000 each.

The circular also allows a person to deposit Rs 2000 notes into his bank account without any limit. For deposits above a specified limit (Rs 10 lakh in a savings account), the bank is required to report to the income tax department. But, the hoarder of black cash won’t take this route when the other option (read: exchange) where he can remain anonymous, is available.

To conclude, far from combating black money, the RBI operation will only help hoarders keep it in a safer zone by exchanging Rs 2000 notes with smaller denomination Rs 500 notes without having to disclose their identity. The RBI/government should go for a course correction. First, it should say upfront that ‘from October 1, 2023, Rs 2000 note won’t be legal tender. Second, for every exchange, the bank should insist on a person’s identity either PAN or Aadhaar. Third, for depositing money in the account, the banks should strictly enforce KYC norms.



Manual scavenging is a curse, must end now

To end this menace Govt must provide alternative employment opportunities and encourage mechanised cleaning technologies

“Death does not discriminate, but the system does” cried out Rukmani Devi, a grief-stricken relative who lost her cousin, Nand Kushwaha, and his son Nitesh, in a horrifying incident that unfolded in Bahora Ramnagar village. The tight-knit community mourns the loss of four lives, all victims of the archaic and inhumane practice of manual scavenging. On a sombre Sunday morning, tragedy struck as these brave souls descended into a septic tank, unaware of the deadly consequences that awaited them.

The incident occurred under the jurisdiction of the Nebua Naurangia police station in the Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh, a region plagued by the persisting men-



(Writer is Political Editor, The Pioneer, Lucknow)

ace of manual scavenging. Despite numerous promises and legislative measures to eradicate this degrading practice, it continues to thrive, claiming innocent lives and shattering families.

Manual scavenging, a practice that involves the manual cleaning of septic tanks, drains, and dry latrines, has been banned in India since 1993 under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act. However, the law remains largely ineffective, with thousands of individuals still forced into this hazardous occupation due to poverty, social discrimination, and a lack of alternative livelihood options.

Incidentally, the government, which has introduced

several measures to prohibit manual scavenging and rehabilitate those involved, does not consider septic cleaning as manual scavenging, despite the National Human Rights Commission’s (NHRC) recommendation to expand the definition of manual scavengers. The incident serves as a stark reminder of the hazardous conditions faced by manual scavengers. “Nand was our sole breadwinner,” sobbed Rukmani Devi, her voice heavy with grief. “We had hoped for a brighter future for Nitesh, but now he is gone too. Why does no one care about our lives?”

The tragedy that befell the Kushwaha family is not an isolated incident. According to a report by Safai Karamchari Andolan, an organization

fighting for the rights of sanitation workers, there have been over 1,800 deaths related to manual scavenging in the past decade alone. In four years, between 2017-2021, 330 people lost their lives due to “hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks” in India, as per the data presented in Lok Sabha in August 2022.

“Each death represents a life cut short, dreams left unfulfilled, and families left devastated,” Dinesh Kanojia, an office-bearer of Safai Karamchari Aandolan said and added: “We clean society’s waste, but society refuses to acknowledge us as humans.”

Despite the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and the Rehabilitation Act of 2013, which outlawed the employ-

ment of manual scavengers and aimed to provide rehabilitation measures, the implementation has been woefully inadequate. The lack of political will, insufficient enforcement, and social apathy have perpetuated this grave injustice. The dangers of manual scavenging extend beyond the risk of asphyxiation and drowning. The workers are often exposed to toxic gases, disease-causing pathogens, and unsanitary conditions that pose serious health risks. The absence of social safety nets and adequate welfare measures further deepens their economic struggles, leaving them with limited choices.

“The persistence of manual scavenging in India is a grave violation of human rights, as it subjects individu-

als to dehumanizing conditions, health hazards, and social exclusion,” Raghuvanshi, a Dalit activist, said. The tragedy in Bahora Ramnagar village should serve as a wake-up call for the authorities and society at large. Immediate action is needed to ensure justice for the victims and their families and to put an end to this brutal practice.

To address this grave issue, a multi-pronged approach is necessary. Strengthening the implementation of existing laws, providing alternative employment opportunities, investing in mechanized cleaning technologies, and raising public awareness are crucial steps toward eradicating manual scavenging. Collaboration between government bodies, civil society organizations, and

affected communities is essential to ensure sustainable change. “No more lives should be lost in the depths of septic tanks,” declared Smita Yadav, a social worker. “It is time to break the chains of this exploitative practice and work towards a future where dignity and equality prevail.”

She said: “As the Kushwaha family and the entire community grieve the loss of Nand and Nitesh, their deaths must not be forgotten. Their tragedy should ignite a collective resolve to eliminate manual scavenging and create a society where every life is valued and respected. Let us unite in our demand for justice and in our commitment to building a future free from this dark chapter of human suffering.”



# Ahead of House debt ceiling vote, Biden shores up Democrats

## McCarthy scrambles for GOP support

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Hard-fought to the end, the debt ceiling and budget cuts package is heading toward a crucial US House vote as President Joe Biden and Speaker Kevin McCarthy assemble a coalition of centrist Democrats and Republicans to push it to passage over fierce blowback from conservatives and some progressive dissent. Biden is sending top White House officials to meet early Wednesday at the Capitol to shore up support ahead of voting. McCarthy is working furiously to sell sceptical fellow Republicans, even fending

off challenges to his leadership, in the rush to avert a potentially disastrous U.S. default. Despite deep disappointment from right-flank Republicans that the compromise falls short of the spending cuts they demanded, McCarthy insisted he would have the votes needed to ensure approval. “We’re going to pass the bill,” McCarthy said as he exited a lengthy Tuesday night meeting at the Capitol. Quick approval by the House and later in the week the Senate would ensure government checks will continue to go out to Social Security recipients, veterans and others and would prevent financial upheaval at home and abroad. Next Monday is when the Treasury has said the U.S. would run short of money to pay its debts, risking an eco-

nomically dangerous default. The package leaves few lawmakers fully satisfied, but Biden and McCarthy are counting on pulling majority support from the political centre, a rarity in divided Washington, testing the leadership of the Democratic president and the Republican speaker. Overall, the 99-page bill restricts spending for the next two years, suspends the debt ceiling into January 2025 and changes policies, including new work requirements for older Americans receiving food aid and greenlighting an Appalachian natural gas line that many Democrats oppose. For more than two hours late Tuesday as aides wheeled in pizza at the Capitol, McCarthy walked Republicans through the details, fielded questions and encouraged



Scott Perry,left, and Chip Roy, R-Texas, speak with reporters as member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus talk about the debt limit deal during a news conference Tuesday on Capitol Hill in Washington. Agencies

them not to lose sight of the bill’s budget savings. The speaker faced a sometimes tough crowd. Leaders of the hard-right House Freedom

Caucus spent the day lambasting the compromise as falling well short of the spending cuts they demand, and they vowed to try to halt passage by

Congress. “This deal fails, fails completely,” Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., the chairman of the Freedom Caucus, said earlier in the day, flanked by others outside the Capitol. “We will do everything in our power to stop it.” A much larger conservative faction, the Republican Study Committee, declined to take a position. Even rank-and-file centrist conservatives were unsure, leaving McCarthy desperately hunting for votes. Rep. Nancy Mace, R-S.C., said after the “healthy debate” late into the night she was still a no. Ominously, the conservatives warned of potentially trying to oust McCarthy over the compromise. “There’s going to be a reckoning,” said Rep. Chip Roy of Texas. Biden was speak-

ing directly to lawmakers, making more than 100 one-on-one calls, the White House said. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said the spending restrictions in the package would reduce deficits by \$1.5 trillion over the decade, a top goal for the Republicans trying to curb the debt load. McCarthy told lawmakers that number was higher if the two-year spending caps were extended, which is no guarantee. But in a surprise that could further erode Republican support, the GOP’s drive to impose work requirements on older Americans receiving food stamps ends up boosting spending by \$2.1 billion over the time period. That’s because the final deal exempted veterans and homeless people, expanding the food stamp rolls by 78,000

people monthly, the CBO said. House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said it was up to McCarthy to turn out votes from some two-thirds of the Republican majority, a high bar the speaker may not be able to reach. In the 435-member House, 218 votes are needed for passage. Still, Jeffries said the Democrats would do their part to avoid failure. “It is my expectation that House Republicans would keep their promise and deliver at least 150 votes as it relates to an agreement that they themselves negotiated,” Jeffries said. “Democrats will make sure that the country does not default.” Liberal Democrats decried the new work requirements for older Americans, those age 50-54, in the food aid programme.

**दि बाजपुर को-आपरेटिव शुगर फैक्ट्री लि०,**  
बाजपुर, ऊधमसिंह नगर (उत्तराखण्ड)  
फ़ोन: ०५८४०१०१ / २०२३-२४ / ४०१  
फ़ैक्स: ३०.०५.२०२३  
**ई-निविदा सूचना**  
सत्र २०२३-२४ हेतु चीनी मिल में विभिन्न सामग्री की आपूर्ति एवं सेवाओं हेतु जी०एस०टी० में पंजीकृत अधिकृत विक्रेताओं/प्रतिष्ठित आपूर्तिकर्ताओं एवं अनुमति देकेंदरों से दिनांक ०१.०६.२०२३ सांय ४.०० बजे से ३०.०६.२०२३ सांय ४.०० बजे तक चरणबद्ध तरीके से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।  
ई-निविदा सूचना [www.bazpursugar.com](http://www.bazpursugar.com) तथा विस्तृत निविदा प्रपत्र [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।  
प्रधान प्रबंधक

**THE HARYANA STATE COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK LTD;**  
SCO 31-34, SECTOR-02, PANCHKULA - 134112  
**Requirement of CBS Software Purchase**  
HSCARDB intends to purchase banking software which is to be implemented in 70 Branches, 19 CEO Offices and in Head Office by the successful bidder. The detail of tender document, terms & conditions and scope of work can be seen/downloaded from the website <https://haryanacardbank.org>. Offers are required to be sent online on the portal <https://etenders.hry.gov.in> on or before 13-06-2023.  
Managing Director

**RATHI STEEL AND POWER LIMITED**  
Regd. Office: 24/1-A, Mohan Cooperative Industrial Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110044  
CIN-L27109DL1971PLC005905  
web: [www.rathisteelandpower.com](http://www.rathisteelandpower.com) e-mail: [investors@rathisteelandpower.com](mailto:investors@rathisteelandpower.com) Tel: 011-40512426  
**Extract of Audited Statement of Financial Results for the quarter and Year ended 31th March 2023 (in Lacs)**

SL. No.	PARTICULARS	QUARTER ENDED			YEAR ENDED	
		31.03.2023	31.12.2021	31.03.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
		(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
1	Total income from operations (net)	16688.71	17302.02	9921.64	72756.98	54577.56
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and / or extraordinary item.	511.93	300.65	517.53	1,225.35	462.49
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (before Extraordinary items)	511.93	300.65	517.53	1,225.35	462.49
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	8,033.75	300.65	(3,593.82)	8,747.17	(3,648.86)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	8,050.18	334.91	(3,552.50)	8,764.54	(3,607.54)
6	Equity Share Capital	3,130.81	3,130.81	3,130.81	3,130.81	3,130.81
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	--	--	--	--	--
8	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs.10/- each)					
	a) Basic :	25.58	0.96	(11.48)	27.86	(11.65)
	b) Diluted:	25.58	0.96	(11.48)	27.86	(11.65)

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Statement of Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended on 31th March 2023 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Statement of stand-alone Audited Financial Results are available on the websites of the BSE Limited ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)).

The above financial results were reviewed by the audit committee and approved by Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on 30-05-2023.  
Date: 30-05-2023, Place: New Delhi

**Integra Telecommunication and Software Limited**  
CIN:L74899DL1985PLC020286  
Registered Office: Flat No. 1311,13th Floor, Devika Tower 6, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019  
Corporate Office: 610/611, Nirmal Galaxy Avior, L.B.S. Road, Mulund (W), Mumbai-400080  
Email ID: [info@integratelesoftware.com](mailto:info@integratelesoftware.com); Website: [www.integratelesoftware.com](http://www.integratelesoftware.com)

**Extract of Statement of Audited Results for the Quarter and Year ended on 31/03/2023**  
(Amount in lakhs)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended
		31.03.2023 Audited	31.12.2022 Un-Audited	31.03.2022 Un-Audited	31.03.2023 Audited
1.	Total Income from Operations	3.79	3.78	34.92	64.43
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(3.43)	(4.95)	25.25	32.61
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(3.43)	(4.95)	25.25	32.61
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(11.62)	(4.95)	16.64	24.43
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income(after tax)]	(11.62)	(4.95)	16.64	24.43
6.	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/- per share)	1,056.00	1,056.00	1,056.00	1,056.00
7.	Reserve (excluding revaluation reserves as shown in the balance sheet of previous year)	-	-	-	23.49
8.	Earning Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) Basic & Diluted	(0.11)	(0.05)	0.16	0.23

**Notes :-**  
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The financial results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on 30th May, 2023. Format of the Financial Results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website at [www.integratelesoftware.com](http://www.integratelesoftware.com)  
**For Integra Telecommunication and Software Limited**  
Sd/-  
Ramaswamy Narayan Iyer  
Managing Director  
DIN:03045662  
**Place: Mumbai**  
**Date: 30.05.2023**

## Imran Khan gets bail till June 19

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A Pakistan anti-corruption court on Wednesday granted bail to former premier Imran Khan until June 19 in the Al-Qadir Trust case involving an alleged corruption of over Rs 50 billion. Khan appeared before the Islamabad-based accountability court after the high court here earlier in the day extended the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief's protective bail for three days and directed him to seek bail from the anti-corruption court within this period. Accountability court Judge Muhammad Bashir, presiding over the hearing, granted Khan bail till June 19 against surety bonds worth Rs 500,000. Earlier, Khan travelled from Lahore to the capital and first



Security personnel with bulletproof shields escort Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan, center, as he leaves after appearing in court, in Islamabad, Pakistan on Wednesday. AP/PTI

appeared before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) where Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rifat Imtiaz granted him three-day protective bail with direction to go to the anti-corruption court for

bail.The court had earlier on May 17 given him bail till May 31. Khawaja Haris counsel for Khan was present in the court while the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was represented by prosecutor

Muazaffar Abbassi in the alleged corruption case that led to Khan's arrest on May 9 in the Islamabad High Court premises.

The cricketer-turned-politician's arrest led to massive protests across Pakistan that left more than 10 persons dead and thousands of PTI supporters behind bars. The PTI chief was two days later released by the Supreme Court with the direction to seek bail from the Islamabad High Court. In an informal chat with the media persons on the occasion, Khan said the powerful establishment was running the country. “The government and establishment are the same thing, the latter is running the former,” he said, adding that there is no choice except to hold elections.

SANEH INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS LIMITED							
Regd. Office : Delton House 4801 Bharat Ram Road 24 Daryaganj New Delhi -110002 (India)							
Phone No. 91-11-23273907 , CIN: L74899DL1980PL060079							
STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER / YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023 (Rs. In Lakh)							
S. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended 31.03.2023	Year ended 31.03.2023	Quarter ended 31.03.2022	Quarter ended 31.03.2023	Year ended 31.03.2023	Quarter ended 31.03.2022
		Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total income from operations (net)	(0.00)	-	0.02	5.27	6.13	0.02
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	(1.30)	(3.50)	(3.58)	3.16	1.12	(4.75)
3	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	(1.30)	(3.50)	(3.58)	3.16	1.12	(4.75)
4	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	(11.67)	(13.88)	(3.58)	3.16	75.32	(4.75)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	12.67	19.53	(40.98)	98.46	204.58	(144.76)
6	Equity share capital (Face Value of Rs.10/- each)	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
7	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (Face Value of ` 10/- each)						
	(a) Basic (Rs.)	(4.86)	(5.78)	(1.49)	1.32	31.38	(1.98)
	(b) Diluted (Rs.)	(4.86)	(5.78)	(1.49)	1.32	31.38	(1.98)
NOTES:							
1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of audited Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchanges website <a href="http://www.cse-india.com">www.cse-india.com</a>							
2) The above results have been prepared in accordance with principle and procedures of Indian Accounting Standards(Ind AS) as notified under the companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 as specified under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013.							
3) The above Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results were reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company in its meeting held on 30th May, 2023.							
By order of the Board For Saneh Industrial Investments Limited Sd/- Vivek Gupta (Director) DIN 00035916							
Place : Delhi Date : 30 <sup>th</sup> May, 2023							

UNITED LEASING & INDUSTRIES LIMITED									
Regd.Office : Plot No.66, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurugram, Haryana-122001.									
CIN : L17100HR1983PLC033460 Website: <a href="http://www.uliltd.com">www.uliltd.com</a> ,									
Email id: <a href="mailto:investorrelations@uliltd.com">investorrelations@uliltd.com</a> , Phone: 011-49075251									
Extract of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter & Year Ended 31st March, 2023									
(Rs. in lac, except per Share data)									
Sl. No.	Particulars (Refer Notes Below)	Quarter Ended			Year Ended				
		31.03.2023	31.12.2022	31.03.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2022			
		[Audited]	[Unaudited]	[Audited]	[Audited]	[Audited]			
1	Total Income from Operations	111.93	445.19	223.21	1,047.44	525.32			
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items	(7.75)	17.13	24.30	55.59	67.05			
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax after exceptional items	(7.75)	17.13	24.30	55.59	67.05			
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	(4.51)	12.85	13.84	43.00	56.59			
5	Total Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-			
6	Paid-up equity share capital	300.00	300	300.00	300.00	300.00			
7	Earning Per Share of Rs.10/- each (not annualised)								
	a) Basic	(0.15)	0.43	0.46	1.43	1.89			
	b) Diluted	(0.15)	0.43	0.46	1.43	1.89			
<b>Notes :-</b>									
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31, 2023 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2023 are available on the Bombay Stock Exchange website <a href="http://www.bseindia.com">www.bseindia.com</a> and on Company's website <a href="http://www.uliltd.com">www.uliltd.com</a>									
2 The figures for the quarter and year ended March 31,2022 and March 31,2023 are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year and the year to date figure up to nine months of the respective financial year.									
3 Figures of the above Previous periods have been regrouped/reclassified/ restated wherever necessary.									
<b>For United Leasing &amp; Industries Ltd.gLrk-@&amp; Anil Kumar Khanna [Managing Director] DIN :00207839</b>									
<b>Date: May 30,2023</b>									
<b>Place: Gurugram [Haryana]</b>									

## 9 more to be tried under stringent Army Act

PTI ■ LAHORE

Nine more members of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party were arrested and handed over to the Pakistan Army on Wednesday to be tried under the stringent Pakistan Army Act over their alleged role in the May 9 attacks on sensitive military installations and government buildings. With these arrests, the number of PTI activists to be tried under the Army Act and the Official Secrets Act has exceeded 50. “On the orders of the anti-terrorism courts, nine suspects belonging to PTI and involved in the attack on the ISI buildings (in Faisalabad)

and military installations in Multan Cantonment were handed to the Pakistan Army on Wednesday for their trial under the Army Act and Official Secrets Act,” a court official said. On May 9, violent protests erupted after paramilitary Rangers arrested 70-year-old Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party from the Islamabad High Court premises in connection with a corruption case. His party workers vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Lahore Corps Commander House, the Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad in response to Khan's arrest.

## US complains of unsafe move by Chinese jet

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US military said Tuesday that a Chinese fighter jet flew aggressively close to a US reconnaissance aircraft over the South China Sea, forcing the American pilot to fly through the turbulent wake. The Chinese J-16 fighter pilot “flew directly in front of the nose of the RC-135,” which was conducting routine operations in international airspace last Friday, US Indo-Pacific Command said in a statement. It called the Chinese move an “unnecessarily aggressive maneuver.”

US defense leaders have complained that China's military has become significantly more aggressive over the past five years, intercepting US aircraft and ships in the region. And tensions with China have only grown in recent months over Washington's military support and sales of defensive weapons to self-governing Taiwan, China's assertions of sovereignty to the contested South China Sea and its flying of a suspected spy balloon over the US. In a further sign of the tensions, China said its defense chief will not meet with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin when the two men attend a security conference in Singapore this coming weekend. Austin is scheduled to address the Shangri-La Dialogue on Saturday, while Chinese Defense Minister Gen. Li Shangfu will speak at the gathering on Sunday.

## China facing more complex security challenges, Xi warns

Beijing (PTI): China is facing more complex and difficult security concerns, President Xi Jinping has said, as he warned citizens to prepare for “worst-case and extreme scenarios” amid deepening tensions with the United States and the European Union. Xi, who presided over a meeting of the National Security Commission on Tuesday, said the complexity and severity of national security problems faced by the country increased dramatically, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. “The national security front must build up strategic self-confidence, have enough confidence to secure victory, and be keenly aware of its own strengths and

advantages,” he said. The report said that it was stressed at the meeting that “we must be prepared for worst-case and extreme scenarios, and be ready to withstand the major test of high winds, choppy waters, and even dangerous storms.” More efforts must be made to modernise our national security system and capacity, and be prepared for actual combat and in dealing with practical problems,” it said. Documents including “guidelines on speeding up the building of risk monitoring and early warning system for national security” and “guidelines on strengthening extensive public education about national security” were deliberated and adopted at the meeting.



# N Korea spy satellite launch fails

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea's attempt to put the country's first spy satellite into space failed Wednesday in a setback to leader Kim Jong Un's push to boost his military capabilities as tensions with the United States and South Korea rise. After an unusually quick admission of failure, North Korea vowed to conduct a second launch after learning what went wrong with its rocket-liftoff. It suggests Kim remains determined to expand his weapons arsenal and apply more pressure on Washington and Seoul while diplomacy is stalled.

South Korea and Japan briefly urged residents to take shelter during the launch.

The South Korean military said it was salvaging an object presumed to be part of the crashed North Korean rocket in waters 200 kilometers (124 miles) west of the southwestern island of Eocheongdo. Later, the Defense Ministry released photos of a white, metal cylinder it described as a suspected rocket part.

A satellite launch by North Korea is a violation of UN Security Council resolutions that ban the country from conducting any launch based on ballistic technology. Observers say North Korea's previous satellite launches helped improve its long-range missile technology.

North Korea long-range missile tests in recent years demonstrated a potential range that could reach all of the continental US, but outside experts say the North Korea still has some work to do to obtain functioning nuclear missiles.

The newly developed Chollima-1 rocket was launched at 6:37 a.m. at the North's Sohae Satellite Launching Ground in the



A TV screen shows a file image of North Korea's rocket launch during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea on Wednesday. *AP/PTI*

northwest, carrying the Malligvong-1 satellite. The rocket crashed off the Korean Peninsula's western coast after it lost thrust following the separation of its first and second stages, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said. South Korea's military said the North Korean rocket had "an abnormal flight" before it fell in the water. Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters that no object was believed to have reached space.

North Korea media said the country's space agency will investigate what it calls "the serious defects revealed" by the launch and conduct a second launch as soon as possible. "It is impressive when the North Korean regime actually admits failure, but it would be difficult to hide the fact of a satellite launch failure internationally, and the regime will likely offer a different narrative domestically," Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said.

"This outcome also suggests that Pyongyang may stage another provocation soon, in part to make up for today's setback," Adam Hodge, a

spokesperson at the US National Security Council, said in a statement that Washington strongly condemns the North Korean launch because it used banned ballistic missile technology, raised tensions, and risked destabilizing security in the region and beyond.

The UN imposed economic sanctions on North Korea over its previous satellite and ballistic missile launches, but has not responded to recent tests because China and Russia, permanent council members now locked in confrontations with the US, have blocked attempts to toughen sanctions. Seoul's military said it boosted military readiness in coordination with the United States, and Japan said it prepared to respond to any emergency.

The US said it will take all necessary measures to ensure the security of the American homeland and the defense of South Korea and Japan.

South Korea's capital, Seoul, issued alerts over public loudspeakers and cellphone text messages telling residents to prepare for evacuation after the launch was detected, and Japan activated a missile warn-

ing system for Okinawa prefecture in southwestern Japan, in the rocket's suspected path.

"Please evacuate into buildings or underground," the Japanese alert said.

Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada said Japan plans to keep missile defense systems deployed to its southern islands and in southwestern waters until June 11, which is the end of North Korea's announced launch window.

KCNA didn't provide details of the rocket and the satellite beyond their names. But experts earlier said North Korea would likely use a liquid-fuelled rocket as most of its previously tested long-range rockets and missiles have done.

Though it plans a fuller investigation, the North's National Aerospace Development Administration attributed the failure to "the low reliability and stability of the new-type engine system applied to (the) carrier rocket" and "the unstable character of the fuel," according to KCNA.

On Tuesday, Ri Pyong Chol, a top North Korean official, said the North needed a space-based reconnaissance system to counter escalating security threats from South Korea and the United States.

However, the spy satellite disclosed in the country's state-run media earlier didn't appear to be sophisticated enough to produce high-resolution imagery. Some outside experts said it may still be able to detect troop movements and large targets such as warships and warplanes. Recent commercial satellite imagery of the North's Sohae launch center showed active construction indicating North Korea plans to launch more than one satellite. In his Tuesday statement, Ri also said North Korea would test "various reconnaissance means" to monitor moves by

the United States and its allies in real time. With three to five spy satellites, North Korea could build a space-based surveillance system that allows it to monitor the Korean Peninsula in near real-time, according to Lee Choon Geun, an honorary research fellow at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute.

The satellite is one of several high-tech weapons systems that Kim has publicly vowed to introduce. Other weapons on his wish list include a multi-warhead missile, a nuclear submarine, a solid-propellant intercontinental ballistic missile and a hypersonic missile.

In his visit to the space agency in mid-May, Kim emphasized the strategic significance of a spy satellite in North Korea's standoff with the United States and South Korea.

Easley, the professor, said Kim has likely increased pressure on his scientists and engineers to launch the spy satellite as rival South Korea successfully launched its first commercial-grade satellite aboard the domestically-built Nuri rocket earlier this month.

South Korea is expected to launch its first spy satellite later this year, and analysts say Kim likely wants his country to launch its spy satellite before the South to reinforce his military credentials at home. After repeated failures, North Korea successfully put its first satellite into orbit in 2012, and the second one in 2016.

The government said both are Earth-observation satellites launched under its peaceful space development program, but many foreign experts believed both were developed to spy on rivals. Observers say there has been no evidence that the satellites have ever transmitted imagery back to North Korea.

# New US aid package for Ukraine may be up to \$300 million

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A US military aid package for Ukraine that is expected to be announced this week will total up to USD 300 million and will include additional munitions for drones, US officials said on Tuesday. The drone ammunition comes after new attacks by unmanned aircraft targeted Moscow.

There has been no suggestion that US-made drones or munitions were used in the recent attacks on Moscow, and US officials have repeatedly said that Ukraine has agreed not to use any American-provided weapons for attacks on Russian soil. The Kremlin blamed Kyiv for Tuesday's attack, but Ukrainian officials had no direct comment.

But the new aid package comes at a tense moment in the war. The latest drone attack on Moscow follows Russia's seizure of the eastern Ukrainian city Bakhmut after a nine-month battle that killed tens of thousands of people. Ukraine is also showing signs that its long-awaited spring counteroffensive may already be underway.

The Russian Defence Ministry said five drones were shot down in Moscow and the systems of three others were jammed, causing them to veer off course. President Vladimir Putin called it a "terrorist" act by Kyiv. A US defence official said the drone strikes would not affect the weapons aid

packages the US is providing Ukraine, to include drone ammunition. The official said the US has committed to supporting Ukraine in its effort to defend the country and Ukraine had committed to not using the systems inside Russia, so the aid would likely continue unchanged.

All of the US officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because the latest aid package has not yet been publicly announced.

US officials did not provide details on the drone munitions in the new aid package or specify which unmanned aircraft would use them. The Defense Department has given Ukraine a variety of unmanned aircraft over the last year, for both surveillance and attacks, including at least two versions of the Switchblade, a so-called kamikaze drone that can loiter in the air and then explode into a target. Other more sophisticated drones can drop munitions, but the US has been reluctant to publicly share details about those. Also included in the newest package will be munitions for Patriot missile batteries and the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), Stinger missiles for the Avenger system, mine-clearing equipment, anti-armour rounds, unguided Zuni aircraft rockets, night vision goggles, and about 30 million rounds of small arms ammunition, said the US officials.

# Grossi urges Russia, Ukraine to ban attacks at Europe's largest nuclear plant

**United Nations (AP):** The UN nuclear chief stressed Tuesday that the world is fortunate a nuclear accident hasn't happened in Ukraine and asked Moscow and Kyiv to commit to preventing any attack on Europe's largest nuclear power plant and make other pledges "to avoid the danger of a catastrophic incident."

Rafael Grossi reiterated to the UN Security Council what he told the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors in March: "We are rolling a dice and if this continues then one day our luck will run out."

The IAEA director general said avoiding a nuclear accident is possible if five principles are observed at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, where fighting on seven occasions, most recently last week, disrupted critical power supplies, "the last line of defense against a nuclear accident."

Grossi "respectfully and solemnly" asked Ukraine and Russia to observe the principles, saying IAEA experts at Zaporizhzhia will start monitoring and he will publicly report on any violations.

Ban attacks from or against the plant, especially targeting reactors and spent fuel storage areas. Ban the storage of heavy weapons or presence of military personnel that could be used for an attack.

# UK govt hails first post-Brexit trade deals with Aus, NZ

AP ■ LONDON

The UK government hailed an era of cheaper Australian wine and New Zealand kiwi fruit as free-trade agreements with the two Southern Hemisphere nations took effect on Wednesday.

UK Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch said that the start of the first all-new trade deals that Britain has struck since it left the European Union marked "a historic moment".

Economists, however, said the economic effect would be limited. Trade expert David Henig called the new deals "a bit of a nothing-burger".

The agreements remove tariffs on most goods, streamline some regulations and make it easier for Britons to work Down Under, and for Aussies and Kiwis to work in the UK.

Britain marked the occasion by sending the Australian and New Zealand governments care packages of products it hopes will get an export boost, including Welsh whiskey, English gin, leather bags from the Cambridge Satchel Co. and Beano, a kids' comic book. The UK says the deals will boost bilat-

eral trade by 53 per cent with Australia and 59 per cent with New Zealand, though the overall volumes are relatively modest: Australia accounts for 0.9 per cent of UK trade, and New Zealand for 0.2 per cent.

Henig, director of the UK Trade Policy Project at the European Centre for International Political Economy, said that the deals "could make bits and pieces of difference. For individual companies it can make a difference".

But, he said, "the likeliest outcome is very little changes". Many economists say no amount of new trade deals will make up for the economic hit of leaving the EU, which before Brexit accounted for about half of all UK trade. Britain's independent Office for Budget Responsibility estimates Brexit knocked 4 per cent off UK gross domestic product.

The new deals together are expected to bring an estimated boost to GDP of about 0.1 per cent by 2035. Some former UK government officials also say the deals are skewed towards Australia and New Zealand.

# Latvia's Parl elects Rinkevics as Prez

**Helsinki (AP):** Latvian lawmakers on Wednesday picked the country's long-serving and popular foreign minister, a strong backer of Ukraine, as its new head of state in a tight vote. The 100-seat Saeima legislature elected Edgars Rinkevics, the country's top diplomat since 2011, as president to serve for a four-year term.

He received 52 votes, one vote more than required to win the race. Incumbent Egils Levits, Latvia's head of state since 2019, didn't seek reelection. Rinkevics, who announced in 2014 that he is "proudly" homosexual, will be the first openly gay president in the Baltic nations — all former Soviet republics where attitudes to sexual minorities have

been less tolerant than in western Europe.

His closest rival, businessman Uldis Pilems, got 25 votes in the third round of voting between the two remaining contenders after the third candidate, Elina Pinto, had dropped out of the contest.

Rinkevics, 49, served — among other posts — as a state secretary with the defense ministry and worked as a journalist with Latvian Radio in the 1990s.

As foreign minister, he has enjoyed high popularity among Latvians due to his hard stance toward neighbouring Russia and his unwavering support for Ukraine that is under assault from Moscow.



**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform general public that Sh. Pawan Kumar Gupta has acquired the Upper Ground Floor Only Without Roof Rights "said Floor" Built on Plot No. 4227, old Plot No. 3462 area measuring 90 Sq. Yds., Built on Plot No. 25 Situated at Village Chowki, Mubarakabad Budh Nagar/Colony Known as Jai Mata market, Tri Nagar Delhi- 110035 vide Sale Deed dated 12.10.2021, Doc no. 14636 and Now, Sh. Pawan Kumar Gupta and Mr. Mukesh Kumar Gupta are mortgaging the above said property with Indusind Bank Ltd & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhanwan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Vertas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-TL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (W).

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.**  
(Office: Chief Engineer/ P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana)  
Corporate Identification No. U40109PB2010SGC033813  
website: www.pspcl.in  
**Tender Enquiry No. 03/CE/P&M/2023**  
CE/P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites e-Tender for Manufacture, testing, supply & delivery of different types of Fire Extinguishers as per PSPCL specifications. For detailed NIT and tender specification, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from **31-05-2023 from 11:00 AM** onwards. Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
**76155/12/1721/2023/24539** Dated CHD :- 5/31/2023

**Office of the Superintending Engineer**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh**  
Email : [sepwdpth@rediffmail.com](mailto:sepwdpth@rediffmail.com)  
Letter No. : 2865/458C.B./2023 Dated : 30/05/2023  
**National Competitive E-Tender Notice**  
The Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (**Two Bid System**) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from date **05-06-2023** at 5.00 PM onward on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (₹)	Validity of Tender (day)	Period of Completion (months)	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of 24 Units Type-II & 12 Units Type-III Residential Quarters for Class-III Employees at Jageshpur Champawat Headquarter of Champawat District.	20.40	5000.00 +G.S.T.	120	17	Category A & Higher for Building works, in state Govt./Govt. of India

**RLF LIMITED**  
Regd.Office : 14Kms, Gurgaon Pataudi Road,Jhund Sarai Veeran, Distt.Gurugram, Haryana.  
CIN : L74999HR1979PLC032747, Website: [www.rlftd.com](http://www.rlftd.com),  
Email id: [investorrelations@rlftd.com](mailto:investorrelations@rlftd.com), Phone: 011-49075251.

Statement of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year Ended March 31, 2023						
(Rs. in Lakhs)						
Sl. No.	Particulars (Refer Notes below)	Quarter Ended			Financial Year Ended	
		31.03.2023 [Audited]	31.12.2022 [Unaudited]	31.03.2022 [Audited]	31.03.2023 [Audited]	31.03.2022 [Audited]
1	Total Income from Operations	25.27	25.21	22.4	96.62	70.10
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items	(16.83)	(7.63)	-84.77	(34.16)	(87.64)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax after exceptional items	(16.83)	(7.63)	-84.77	(34.16)	(87.64)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	(260.71)	(7.63)	-84.77	(278.04)	(87.64)
5	Total Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-
6	Paid-up equity share capital	980.08	980.08	980.08	980.08	980.08
7	Earning Per Share of Rs.10/- each (not annualised)					
	a) Basic	(2.66)	(0.08)	(0.86)	(2.84)	(0.89)
	b) Diluted	(2.66)	(0.08)	(0.86)	(2.84)	(0.89)

**Notes :-**

- The above Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2023 have been reviewed by Audit Committee and approved by the Board at its meeting held on 30th May, 2023
- The Financial Results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards ("Ind AS") as prepared under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules issued thereunder. The Company had previously issued its unaudited financial results for the quarter ended March 2023 based on its preliminary selection of exemptions and accounting policies.
- The Company's Primary business segment is reflected based on principal business activities carried on by the Company. As per Indian Accounting Standard (Ind-As-108) "Operating Segments" as notified under the Companies ( Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 as amended, the Company operates in one reportable business segment.
- The previous periods/ year figure have been regrouped / reclassified, wherever necessary.

For RLF Limited  
Sd/-  
Vikas Grover  
Director  
DIN : 07075918

Place : Gurugram, Haryana  
Dated : 30th May, 2023

**M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.**  
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)  
NISHTHA PARISAR, BIJALEE NAGAR, GOVINDPURA, BHOPAL-23  
Phone No. : 0755-2602033-36, Fax : 2589821, 2586636  
Ref. MD/MK/04/NIT/786 Date : 31.05.2023  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
MPMKVCL, Bhopal, invites following bids through e-tendering.

Tender specification Number	Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee including GST (in Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Date of Opening of Tender
MD/MK/04/933	Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for SCADA Part-B Line Equipments namely Auto Reclosure, Sectionalizer, 2/3/4 Way RMUs and 11 KV & 33 KV Fault Passage Indicator (FPI) installed under MPMKVCL, Bhopal	357.00	11800	08.06.2023 03.00 PM	16.06.2023 03:00 PM

Other details and full Tender documents would be available on Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & Govt. Website <https://mptenders.gov.in> shortly.  
M.P. Madhyam/110144/2023 **CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)**

**Delton Cables Limited**  
Regd.Office : Delton House 4801 Bharat Ram Road 24 Darya Ganj New Delhi -110002  
Website : [www.deltoncables.com](http://www.deltoncables.com), E-mail: [cs@deltoncables.com](mailto:cs@deltoncables.com),CIN: L31300DL1964PLC004255  
**EXTRACT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023** (Rs. in lakhs)

SL No	Particulars	Quarter ended 31.03.2023	Quarter ended 31.12.2022	Quarter ended 31.03.2022	Year Ended 31.03.2023	Year Ended 31.03.2022
		Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total income from operations (net)	8,112.41	6,797.67	4,821.84	27,348.13	15,971.49
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	98.53	191.85	386.27	656.96	105.02
3	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	98.61	191.85	386.19	664.95	104.94
4	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	(432.85)	157.33	294.40	57.75	76.61
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive income (after tax)]	(429.05)	153.78	317.41	63.64	92.88
6	Equity share capital (Face Value of Rs.10/- each)	864.00	864.00	864.00	864.00	864.00
7	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (Face Value of 10/- each)	(5.01)	1.82	3.41	0.67	0.89
	(a) Basic (Rs.)	(5.01)	1.82	3.41	0.67	0.89
	(b) Diluted (Rs.)	(5.01)	1.82	3.41	0.67	0.89

**Notes:**  
1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchanges website ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and on Company's website ([www.deltoncables.com](http://www.deltoncables.com)).  
2) The above result have been prepared in accordance with principle and procedures of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as notified under the companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 as specified under section 133 of Companies Act, 2013.  
3) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on May 30, 2023. The Statutory Auditors of the Company have have expressed an unmodified audit opinion on these results.  
For and on behalf of the Board  
Sd/-  
Vivek Gupta  
(Managing Director)  
DIN 00035916

Place : Delhi  
Date : 30-May-23

**RATHI BARS LIMITED**  
CIN No: L74899DL1993PLC054781  
Regd. Office : A-24/7, Mohan Co-operative Indl. Estate, New Delhi-110017  
Ph.: +91-11-43165400, Web: [www.rathisteels.com](http://www.rathisteels.com),  
E-mail : [rathibars@hotmail.com](mailto:rathibars@hotmail.com)  
**STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2023** (Rs. In Lacs)

Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended	
	31-03-2023	31-12-2022	31-03-2022	31-03-2023	31-03-2022
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	
1 Total Revenue From operations	19,868.14	7,412.35	13,787.42	48,263.78	49,392.66
2 Net Profit/Loss for the Period (Before Tax)	91.35	66.84	94.92	331.54	317.48
3 Net Profit/Loss for the Period (After Tax)				258.39	285.37
4 Total Comprehensive Income	91.35	66.84	94.92	258.39	285.37
5 Equity Share Capital	1,633.04	1,633.04	1,633.04	1,633.04	1,633.04
6 Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserves)				7,402.57	7,144.18
7 Earning Per Share (of Rs. 10 Each)					
Basic :	0.56	0.41	0.58	1.58	1.75
Diluted :	0.56	0.41	0.58	1.58	1.75

**\* Not Annualised**  
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange's websites i.e. 'www.bseindia.com' and also at the website of the Company at [www.rathisteels.com](http://www.rathisteels.com).  
2 The Company does not have any Exceptional and Extraordinary item to report during the above periods.  
3 The Company has not discontinued any of its operations during the above periods.  
4 Tax expenses / Provision for Taxation has been made on annual basis only.  
5 The figures of previous year / Quarters have been re-arranged/re-grouped wherever felt necessary.  
By order of the Board  
for **Rathi Bars Limited**  
**Anurag Rathi**  
(Managing Director)  
DIN : 00063345

Place: New Delhi  
Date : 30/05/2023



# Centre's fiscal deficit narrows to 6.4% of GDP in FY23

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre's fiscal deficit narrowed to 6.4 per cent of the GDP in 2022-23 from 6.71 per cent in FY22, as anticipated by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget in February this year. In the Union Budget, the government aimed to further bring down the fiscal deficit - a key indicator of borrowing -- during the current financial year 2023-24 to 5.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for 2022-23, the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) said the fiscal deficit in absolute terms was Rs 17,33,131 crore (provisional), marginally down from the amount projected in the Revised Estimates (RE) in the Budget. CGA said the government received Rs 24.56 lakh crore (101 per cent of corresponding RE 2022-23 of total receipts) during 2022-23. It comprised Rs 20.97 lakh



crore tax revenue (Net to Centre), Rs 2.86 lakh crore of non-tax revenue and Rs 72,187 crore of non-debt capital receipts. Non-debt capital receipts consist of the recovery of loans

and miscellaneous capital receipts. About Rs 9.48 lakh crore has been transferred to state governments as devolution of taxes by the central government, which is Rs 50,015 crore higher than the previous year (2021-22). The CGA data further revealed that the Centre's total expenditure was Rs 41.89 crore (100 per cent of corresponding RE 2022-23), out of which Rs 34.52 lakh crore was on the revenue account and Rs 7.36 lakh crore on the capital

account. Out of the total revenue expenditure, Rs 9.28 lakh crore was on account of interest payments and Rs 5.31 lakh crore towards major subsidies. As per CGA, the revenue deficit for the fiscal ending March 2023 was 3.9 per cent of GDP while the effective revenue deficit worked out to be 2.8 per cent of GDP. Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist and Head - Research and Outreach, Icra, said the government was able to restrict its FY2023 fiscal

deficit at Rs 17.3 lakh crore, a shade below the FY2023 RE, with higher than estimated revenue receipts and a small undershooting in revenue expenditure, offsetting the dis-investment miss and a healthier than expected capex. "In FY2023, the government's net tax revenues reported a healthy growth of 15.2 per cent, amidst a 17.8 per cent contraction in non-tax revenues, 7.8 per cent increase in revenue expenditure, and a robust 24.2 per cent expansion in capex," she said.

# IT sector growth to slow down further in FY24: Icra

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian IT companies revenue growth will slow down further to mid-single digits amid intensifying headwinds for the nearly USD 250 billion dollar sector, domestic rating agency Icra said on Wednesday. The continuing uncertainties are set to take their toll on hiring, and companies are expected to keep employee addition at "low levels" in the near term, the rating agency said, adding that the net addition is negative in the last two-quarters of FY23. As per industry lobby grouping Nasscom's report published in March, the sector's growth slowed down to 8.4 per cent in FY23 from over 15 per cent in the previous fiscal. "Despite a strong order book and deal pipelines of Indian IT services companies, Icra expects the revenue growth to remain subdued in mid-single digits in USD terms in FY2024," the agency said. It has maintained its stable outlook for companies in the sector, which is generally known to have the best quality on leverage positions. The agency said the growth momentum witnessed a slowdown in the last two quarters due to macroeconomic headwinds in the US and Europe, which together account for up to 90 per cent of the industry's



revenues. On a sectoral basis, growth from the banking, financial services and insurance segment, which contributes nearly a third of the overall revenues, tapered more than other segments because of the crisis in American banks, it said. There are delays in decision-making by customers, as visible from the slowdown in the conversion of deals to revenues to some extent, it added. On the profitability front, Icra said companies in its sample set witnessed a 1.90 per cent narrowing in the operating profit margins to 22.9 per cent in FY23 and added that it expects the number to remain steady despite the slowdown in revenue growth. From an employee addition perspective, the top five companies in the sector added 83,906 people in FY23 compared to 2.73 lakh in FY22. Hiring will "remain at low levels in the near term till the macroeconomic uncertainty continues", the agency added.

ASHNOOR TEXTILE MILLS LIMITED						
Registered Office : Behrampur Road, Khandsa Village, Gurugram, Haryana- 122001, India, Tel: +91 (0124) - 4809756						
CIN: UL17226HR1984PLC033384   E mail: atml_delhi@yahoo.com   Website : www.ashnoortex.com						
Statement of Standalone Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year Ended March 31, 2023						
Sl. No.	Particulars	For the quarter ended March 31, 2023	For the quarter ended December 31, 2022	For the quarter ended March 31, 2022	For the Year ended March 31, 2023	For the Year ended March 31, 2022
		(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations (Net)	3,586.47	2,354.92	7,703.84	17,778.83	26,232.20
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	416.00	50.01	211.89	781.18	1,206.48
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	432.05	50.01	207.44	797.23	1,202.03
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	311.88	35.14	138.46	612.43	895.53
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	311.88	35.14	138.46	612.43	895.53
6	Paid Up Equity Share Capital	1,273.95	1,273.95	1,273.95	1,273.95	1,273.95
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	4,388.01	-	3,775.58	4,388.01	3,775.58
8	Securities Premium Account	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00
9	Net Worth	5,661.96	5,350.12	5,049.53	5,661.96	5,049.53
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	0.18	0.24	0.13	0.18	0.13
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preferences Shares	-	-	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	1.25	1.00	1.94	1.25	1.94
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (before and after extraordinary items)					
1	Basic:	2.45	0.28	1.09	4.80	7.02
2	Diluted:	2.45	0.28	1.09	4.80	7.02
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	2.20	0.68	2.87	1.82	3.50
17	Interest Service coverage Ratio	4.69	1.58	4.20	2.77	4.41
Note:1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly and Yearly Financial Results filed with the Bombay Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly and Yearly Financial Results as on March 31, 2023 are available on the websites of the Bombay Stock Exchange i.e. www.bseindia.in and on web site of the Company i.e. www.ashnoortex.com						
By Order of the Board of Directors For Ashnoor Textile Mills Limited Sd/- Suneel Gupta Managing Director DIN - 00052084						
Place : Gurugram, Haryana Date : 30-05-2023						

FEEDBACKINFRAPRIVATE LIMITED						
CIN-U74899DL1990PTC040630						
Registered Office: 311, 3rd Floor, Vardhaman Plaza, Pocket 7, Plot No. 6, Sector 12, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078, India						
Corporate Office: 1st Floor, Plot No. 77A East Tower, Ifco Road, Sector-18, Gurugram - 122015, Haryana, India						
Telephone: Board: +91 124 4169100    Fax: +91 124 4169155						
E-mail: feedback.legal@feedbackinfra.com    Website: www.feedbackinfra.com						
STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR HALF YEAR ENDED 30ST MARCH, 2023						
Sl No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended March 31,2023	Quarter Ended December 31,2022	Quarter Ended March 31, 2022	For the Year Ended March 31, 2023	For the Year Ended March 31, 2022
		Audited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	4,562	4,494	6,080	19,245	19,978
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	(3,608)	(2,712)	(2,526)	(10,151)	(11,306)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	(3,608)	(2,712)	(6,550)	(10,151)	(17,414)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	(2,764)	(2,033)	(5,337)	(7,627)	(13,503)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(2,825)	(2,033)	(4,895)	(7,688)	(13,061)
6	Paid up equity share capital	1,636	1,636	1,636	1,636	1,636
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(16,839)	(14,015)	(9,152)	(16,839)	(9,152)
8	Securities premium account	1,739	1,739	1,739	1,739	1,739
9	Net Worth	(15,203)	(12,379)	(7,515)	(15,203)	(7,515)
10	Paid up debt capital / Outstanding Debt	54,791	53,205	52,235	54,791	52,235
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Share	-	-	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio *	-3.23	-4.30	-6.95	-3.23	-6.95
13	Earnings Per Share (for continuing and discontinued operations)					
	Basic	-16.89	-12.43	-32.62	-46.61	-82.53
	Diluted	-16.89	-12.43	-32.62	-46.61	-82.53
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	1,210	1,210	1,210	1,210	1,210
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) *	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	0.00	-0.06
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (ISCR) *	0.02	-0.16	-0.44	0.17	-0.39
Additional information as per Regulation 52(4) of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015						
1 During the year ended March 31, 2023, principal and interest amount was due on Non-Convertible Debenture but not paid.						
2 There has been no improvement in financial strength of the company during the year and company continued to face financial constraint, therefore company has not got the credit rating reassessed therefore care has assigned INC (ISSUER NOT COOPERATIVE).						
3 Debentures are secured by way of first pari- passu charge by hypothecation of entire current assets, movable fixed assets of the Company both present and future, Corporate Guarantee of the Promoter Company and pledge of shares of subsidiary Company. These are to be secured against first pari- issue charge over total assets to the extent of total assets cover of atleast 1.5 times. The total asset coverage ratio is 1.28. times as on March 31, 2023.						
* Notes 1: Adopted definitions for Ratios:						
Ratios has been computed as follows						
Debt Equity Ratio = Total Debt / Total Equity**						
Total Debt= Non current borrowings + current maturities of non-current borrowings						
Total equity = Equity share capital + Other equity + Compulsory convertible instruments to equity						
Interest Service Coverage Ratio (ISCR)=(EBDIT-Current Tax)/Gross Interest						
Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) = (EBDIT-Current Tax)/(Gross interest + Principal Repayment of long Term debts excluding repayment from refinancing of debt)**						
Assets Coverage Ratio = (Total assets) / (Total borrowing excluding unsecured borrowings and compulsory convertible instruments to equity)						
Note - 2						
a) The above is an extract of the annual financial results required to be filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as amended). The full format of the annual financial results are available on the Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on the Company website www. feedbackinfra.com						
b) For the items referred in the Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www. feedbackinfra.com						
c) The above financial results for the year ended March 31, 2023 have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors in the meeting held on30 <sup>th</sup> May 2023.						
d) The Statement has been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards ("Ind AS") as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules issued thereunder and in terms of Regulation 52(1) of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and SEBI's circular no. CIR/IMD/DFI/69/ 2016 dated August 10, 2016.						
e) The Company is primarily in the business of consultancy. The Board of Directors of the Company, which has been identified as being the chief operating decision maker (CODM), evaluates the Company's performance, allocate resources based on the analysis of the various performance indicator of the Company as a single unit. Therefore, the Company's business activity falls within a single business segment in terms of Ind AS 108.						
For and on behalf of Board of Directors Sd/- Hari Om Director DIN No. 10045489						
Place : Gurugram Date : 30th May, 2023						

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Reg : Plot No. 802, Phase-V, Udyog Vihar, HSIIDC, Gurugram.

Plot No. 802, Phase-V, Udyog Vihar, HSIIDC, Gurugram Measuring 450 Sq. Meter was allotted by the Corporation to Sita Ram Gupta and Sons (HUF), Sanjay Gupta And Sons (HUF), Rajesh Gupta (HUF), Rachita Gupta vide Allotment/Re-allotment Letter No.2260 Dte 27.09.2018. The Corporation has been informed that the original allottee Mr. Sita Ram Gupta has expired on 31.10.2020. The Surviving legal heirs of the deceased allottee all Surviving Members are (Sanjay Gupta, Laxmi Devi, Moenakshi Gupta, Meetu Goel, Rechita Gupta, Sonia Gupta) have approached the Corporation for transfer of the plot in favour of Sh. Sanjay Gupta And Sons (HUF) and others.

The Corporation is in process of considering their request & transferring the said plot in favour of Sh. Sita Ram and Sons (HUF), Parveen Bansal (HUF) Through this public notice it is hereby informed that in case, any of the legal heirs of late Sh. Sita Ram Gupta or any other person having his/her objection in writing before the undersigned or Addl. General Manager (Estate), HSIIDC Limited, C-13-14, Sector-6, Panchkula, Haryana along with an affidavit within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of the notice. In case no response is received within the aforesaid period, it will be presumed that no one has any objection to transfer of the said plot in favour of Sh. Sita Ram and Sons (HUF), Parveen Bansal (HUF) and the corporation shall go ahead with transfer of plot in his favour.

Estate Manager  
For & behalf of  
Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corp Ltd.  
Vanijya Nikunj Complex Udyog Vihar, Phase-V, Gurugram

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Subject :** Transfer of ownership in respect of H.No.490, 3rd Floor, Urban Estate, Huda, Sector-2, Faridabad, measuring area 161.96 Sq. Mtr., in respect of 100% share upon the basis of Sale Deed bearing document No.1522 dated 03-06-2022, registered in the office of Sub Registrar Ballabgarh. Whereas the applicant **Sh. Pradeep Aggarwal S/o Sh. Mitthan Lal Aggarwal R/o Plot No.1, Apna Ghar Market, Sohna Road, Sector-23, Faridabad, Haryana**, intends to apply for the transfer of the said property in his favour on the basis of Sale Deed. If any person is having objection against the transfer of the said property, He/she can submit objections in the writing to Estate Officer HSVP, Faridabad, along with supporting documents within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise the Estate Officer may transfer the said property as per HUDA policy and may not entertain subsequent claim if any.

Applicant - Sh. Pradeep Aggarwal

## 40-50 FDI proposals from countries sharing land border with India pending



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

About 40-50 foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals from countries sharing land border with India under the provisions of Press Note 3 are pending for approval with the government, official sources said.

Under Press Note 3, the government has made its prior approval mandatory for foreign investments from countries that share land border with India. These countries are China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Afghanistan. As per that decision, FDI proposals from these countries need government approval for investments in India in any sector.

"About 40-50 proposals are pending with the commerce and industry ministry as they require security and political clearances," one of the sources said.

Sources added that there is no consideration at present to ease norms under this press note.

"FDI is not totally banned from these countries. It is just that they (investors from these countries) have to follow the government approval route and of course that takes times," a source said.

The government has a commitment to clear these proposals in three months time, but it takes about seven months.

As per industry sources, MG Motor, a British brand owned by China's largest automaker SAIC Motor Corp, has been awaiting government approval for around two years now to raise funds from its parent.

# Sensex, Nifty trip over profit taking in banking, energy shares

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty cut short their four-day gaining streak and closed lower by half a per cent on Wednesday due to profit-taking in banking, energy and metal stocks amid weak trends in global markets.

Snapping its four-day rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 346.89 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at 62,622.24. During the day, it tumbled 568.11 points or 0.90 per cent to 62,401.02.

The NSE Nifty declined 99.45 points or 0.53 per cent to end at 18,534.40.

In the four-day rally to Tuesday, Sensex advanced by 1,195 points or 2 per cent while Nifty rose by 348 points or 2.26 per cent. "Markets witnessed profit-taking and shed over half a per cent, tracking mixed cues. After the initial downtick, the Nifty index traded with a negative bias for most of the session however a marginal rebound in the final hours trimmed some losses," said Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Global headwinds, especially from the US markets, are causing intermediate volatility however the positional up trend is still intact, Mishra



said. From the Sensex pack, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, Reliance Industries, HDFC, HDFC Bank, NTPC, Tata Steel and UltraTech Cement were the major laggards on Wednesday.

Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Asian Paints, Sun Pharma, Tata Motors and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the gainers. "As indicated by multiple economic data points, the Indian economy is presently experiencing a robust recovery, leading to an upward trend in domestic equity markets. However, the rally is being hindered at times due to negative signals from global peers, as observed today.

"Concerns about a recession and potential interest rate hikes in western markets are impacting the domestic market but it is nevertheless maintaining the outperformance," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

# Key infra sector growth slows down to 6-month low of 3.5% in April



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The production growth of eight key infrastructure sectors slowed down to a six-month low of 3.5 per cent in April 2023 due to a decline in the output of crude oil, natural gas, refinery products and electricity. The core sector growth was 9.5 per cent in April 2022 while in March 2023 the key infra sectors recorded a growth rate of 3.6 per cent. The growth rate in April 2023 is the lowest since October 2022 when the sectors expanded by 0.7 per cent. Coal production growth declined to 9 per cent in April this year, according to the official data released on Wednesday. Fertiliser production soared by 23.5 per cent, steel by 12.1 per cent and cement output by 11.6 per cent in April, the data showed.



# ICC seeks PCB assurances on team to India for ODI World Cup

PTI ■ KARACHI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman and CEO are in Lahore to seek guarantees from the PCB that it will not push for implementing a hybrid model for its matches in the ODI World Cup in India later this year.

Insiders confirmed to PTI that ICC chairman Greg Barclay and CEO Geoff Allardice have specifically come to Lahore to get some assurances from the Pakistan Cricket Board on the national team's participation in the World Cup in October-November.

The development comes after PCB chief Najam Sethi made it clear that the team will not travel for the World Cup in India if the Rohit Sharma led side doesn't visit Pakistan for the preceding Asia Cup.

"The ICC and World Cup hosts, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) are concerned with the hybrid



model being pushed by Najam Sethi who heads the cricket management committee of the PCB.

"Although the hybrid model has been suggested by Sethi for the Asia Cup which precedes the ICC event, the concern remains

that once accepted for the regional event the PCB might also then ask the ICC to implement it for the World Cup when it comes to Pakistan playing in India," he explained.

Sethi has already indicated that if the Pakistan government

doesn't give clearance or has security concerns about sending the team to India, PCB could ask the ICC to hold Pakistan's matches at a neutral venue.

"Naturally neither the ICC nor the BCCI want such a situation since Pakistan's unequiv-

ocal participation in matches in India would guarantee the success of Indo-Pakistan matches and also the tournament itself."

Another source said this was the primary reason why BCCI secretary Jay Shah was still reluctant to accept the hybrid model for the Asia Cup and support having three or four matches of the tournament in Pakistan and the remaining games in UAE or Sri Lanka.

Pakistan are the hosts of the Asia Cup and Sethi has said repeatedly that if the tournament is moved to one neutral country from Pakistan, it will not take part in the competition.

He has also hinted that if Pakistan didn't get to host some Asia Cup matches it could have an adverse bearing on the World Cup as well.

"The ICC officials are trying to work as a bridge between the PCB and BCCI and resolve the outstanding issues pertaining to the Asia Cup and World Cup."

## Indian bowlers focus on building workload ahead of WTC final

PTI ■ PORTSMOUTH

The Indian cricket team is focussing on building workload for the bowlers, who had an extensive run in the IPL, ahead of the World Test Championship final against Australia starting on June 7 at The Oval.

In the bowling department, while the likes of Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Jaydev Unadkat and Umesh Yadav were part of the first batch to travel to England, pace spearhead Mohammed Shami's departure was delayed as the IPL final in Ahmedabad last Sunday was moved to the reserve day after incessant rain.

The middle-order mainstay Virat Kohli was also among the players who left in the first batch along with the Rahul Dravid-led coaching staff. Kohli joined the camp on Monday along with Cheteshwar Pujara, who linked up with the squad in England as he was busy playing County Championship for Sussex.

The Indian team is expected to have a few practice sessions at the Arundel Castle Cricket Club in Sussex ahead of the big final.

"The preparation has been good so far. The initial bit was to ease into the practice session but the last two sessions have been pretty happy — I think we pushed them a little bit. Just adding a little bit of workload for the bowlers, just kind of preparing them for the Test match," said India's bowling coach Paras Mhambrey in a video released by the BCCI.

"(We are) happy with the conditions, I think it is a lovely ground, (it is) kind of what you can



expect. The weather is holding up, it has been sunny, a little windy, a little chill but something that we have to get used to (when) playing in England," he said.

India's fielding coach T Dilip said the focus will be on close-in catching since the running part of the fitness drill was covered in the IPL.

"The players have been coming from an IPL so a key thing for us to take care of was the workload, how much they have run, how much they have taken care.

"What we understood and got out of that is things (like) ground fielding have been covered in the IPL, so the focus here was more on the volume of catching, especially when you are talking about close-in catching, the slip catching and the flat catches. These are the catches that we tend to increase the volume (of)," he said.

Mhambrey said while the bowlers will get some rest in days leading up to the WTC final, the group is determined to extract the maximum benefits from the training sessions.



## Dhoni will take medical advice for knee injury and decide: CSK CEO Viswanathan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chennai Super Kings captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni will be seeking expert opinion from sports orthopedics in Mumbai on the state of his dodgy left knee before taking a call on his treatment, CEO Kasi Viswanathan said on Wednesday.

Dhoni had played the entire IPL season with a heavily strapped left knee and although he looked absolutely okay while keeping, more often than not batted as late as No.8 and didn't look swift while running between the wickets.

"Yes, it is true that Dhoni will be taking medical advice for his left knee injury and accordingly decide. If surgery is advised, it can only be ascertained after reports come out, it will be completely his call," Viswanathan told PTI.

Is there a possibility that Dhoni will decide against playing next season and thus free up a purse of Rs 15 crore for the mini auction, the CEO replied: "Frankly, we are not even thinking on those lines as we haven't reached that stage.

"It will be completely Dhoni's call. But I can tell you in CSK, we haven't entertained those thoughts," Viswanathan said.

Asked if CSK supremo N Srinivasan addressed the players after the fifth IPL Trophy and if celebrations were in the offing.

"He is very happy but there were no celebrations. The players dispersed for their respective destinations from Ahmedabad only. Also if you have seen CSK, we are never big on celebrations," the veteran official said.

Asked if the fifth IPL title feels the sweetest, considering the spate of injuries to its top players, Viswanathan said: "It's all about team spirit and every player knowing his role which is very well defined in our set up.

"Even a player of Ben Stokes' stature despite his nature was brilliant around the group and the youngsters looked upto to him. This has been possible because of our captain."

What has been CSK's hallmark over the years which enabled them to reach final in 11 of the 14 editions that they have been a part of?

"I have been associated with CSK from season 1 and we have never deviated from our process. The key has been to keep things simple and explain every player what is expected of them. In our franchise, the skipper keeps everything uncomplicated," Viswanathan said.

CSK were barred from the league for two editions.

## Hazlewood praises Kohli's work ethics

PTI ■ LONDON

Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood has spoken highly of Royal Challengers Bangalore teammates Virat Kohli and Mohammed Siraj ahead of the World Test Championship final against India at The Oval starting June 7.

Hazlewood, who has been battling with multiple injuries over the last six months, had to cut short his IPL stint with a side issue. However, he feels he is not far from bowling full tilt as Australia gear up for the big final.

Talking about Kohli, whose wicket he will be targeting at The Oval, Hazlewood said the Indian superstar's work ethic makes him the player that he is.

"I think it's probably how hard he works (that stands out). His fitness first of all - and then his skill work and batting and fielding in particular.

"He is always out there (training) first and leaves last ... and the intensity he trains at all the time is at such a high level it drags everyone else along for the ride. That can leak on to the other players and improve them as well," Hazlewood told the ICC.

On RCB's leading wicket taker Siraj, who is expected to play a big part in the WTC final, Hazlewood said: "I was a bit late getting there (to RCB this year),



but before then he was on fire.

"He is up there at the top of the wickets every time, and the economy rate was probably the thing as bowling at Chinnaswamy (RCB's home ground) is impossible sometimes and he was going at six or six-and-a-half an over. His control was great and he is bowling well."

**'CLOSE TO BOWLING FULL PACE:** The Australian cricket team has been training in Formby in England ahead of the WTC final. Hazlewood trained with the team on Monday and said he is feeling good going into

the big game.

"My fitness is pretty good and it is just a matter of ticking off every session from here until that date (June 7) basically. "We will probably have anywhere from three to four more sessions - bat versus ball and then a couple of longer days in the nets as well or centre wicket down in London — so it is just ticking off those last few boxes and pulling up well from every session," he said.

"It was pretty close (to full pace today). I came down for a little bowl yesterday just to

loosen up and to get a bit more out of today's session, so it is feeling good. It is always good to get the first one out of the way and when we get to London we will steam in," he added.

Hazlewood could feature in only three games in the IPL before his injury flared up.

"In T20 you are bowling a lot of various different balls every over. A wide yorker, to a bounce, to a slower ball and it probably got jammed up a little bit and a bit of scar tissue from previous injuries flared up.

"It calmed down pretty quickly, I had a week off but I didn't quite get back to going 100 percent at IPL. But the last few bowls have been good and I have been building up nicely," he said.

Having played as many as 15 Tests against India, Hazlewood is looking forward to the challenge of playing the Asian giants at a neutral venue.

"It is a strange stat that as I think I have just played a lot of cricket against them. What is going to be interesting is playing them here in England.

"It is going to be interesting for both teams how they go about it and how different it is to playing them in Australia or in India as typically you only play them there," he said.

"That is the exciting thing about it and everyone is looking forward to next week," he added.

## Stokes plans to play as allrounder in Ashes

AP ■ LONDON

England captain Ben Stokes eased concerns about his ability to bowl in the upcoming Ashes series because of long-standing knee issues and said Wednesday he is planning to play every test this summer.

"Unless I can't walk, I'll be on the field," Stokes said with a smile the day before England begins its one-off test against Ireland, which serves as a warmup for the five-match Ashes series against Australia.

After having knee issues during the tour of New Zealand in February, Stokes played only twice for Chennai Super Kings in the recently-finished Indian Premier League, sending down just one over for 18 runs.

However, the 31-year-old Stokes said his knee is much better than it was in New Zealand and he will take his place in the England team as an allrounder against Ireland at Lord's and then Australia.

"What I have done is I have got myself in a position where I'm not able to look back and regret or say I've not given myself the best opportunity to play a full role with the ball this summer," Stokes said.

"I've worked incredibly hard with the medical team in Chennai, liaising with the ECB



guys. I have got myself into a place where I feel like back at 2019, 2020 space in terms of my own body and fitness and everything like that."

Pushed about the exact nature of his knee problem, Stokes said: "We know what it is and it's about managing it."

"It's managing it with workload," he added, "and working it with the med team just to get through it."

England has already named its team for the Ireland test, with seamer Josh Tongue making his debut while fast bowlers James Anderson and Ollie Robinson are rested. Ireland has lost all six of its matches since gaining test status in 2017. That includes a defeat against England at Lord's in 2019.

Captain Andrew Balbirnie has said beating England would be "the biggest moment in Irish cricket history"



## Thai Open: Kiran stuns Shi Yuqi

Lakshya, Satwik-Chirag too win, Sindhu makes early exit

PTI ■ BANGKOK

India's Kiran George scripted a stunning straight-game win over world number 9 Shi Yuqi of China but double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu made an opening round exit from the Thailand Open Super 500 tournament here on Wednesday.

Ashmita Chaliha and Saina Nehwal also made winning starts to their campaign in women's singles, while Lakshya Sen and world number 4 pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also progressed to the pre-quarterfinals.

On a day when Kidambi Srikanth and B Sai Praneeth also failed to cross the opening hurdle, 2022 Odisha Open winner Kiran, a product of the Prakash Padukone academy, notched up a 21-18 22-20 win over third seed Shi Yu Qi, who is a 2018 world championship silver medallist. Kiran will take on China's Weng Hong Yang next.

His academy mate Lakshya also dug deep to eke out a hard-fought 21-23 21-15 21-15 win over Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei. He is likely to square off against All England champion Li Shi Feng of China.

Commonwealth Games champion and top seeds Satwik and Chirag too had to work hard to outwit the Danish combination of Rasmus Kjaer and Frederik Sogaard 21-13 18-21 21-17 in a thrilling match.

A former world champion, Sindhu, however, faltered in the opening round, going down fighting 8-21 21-18 18-21 to Canada's Michelle Li in 62-minute match. In other matches, Ashmita, who came through the qualifiers, beat compatriot Malvika Bansod 17-21 14-21, while London Olympics bronze medallist Saina defeated Canada's Wen Yu Zhang 21-13 21-7.

## Bharat over Kishan, Umesh over Shardul for WTC XI: Sarandeep

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India selector Sarandeep Singh says picking KS Bharat over Ishan Kishan as the wicketkeeper for the World Test Championship final against Australia is a no brainer and he would also choose Umesh Yadav over Shardul Thakur in the playing eleven.

In the absence of the injured Rishabh Pant, Kishan, who is yet to play Test cricket, can provide the x-factor but Sarandeep feels Bharat walks into the eleven as the frontline wicketkeeper.

"KS Bharat for sure. He is a proper Test match wicketkeeper and we saw that against Australia at home, he kept superbly. He has been around for a while and he should get the

opportunity," Sarandeep told PTI on Wednesday. The WTC final will be played at the Oval in London from June 7. The former India spinner said Kishan's time will come.

"Ishan is an opener. I am not saying he is not capable of playing Tests. He is one for the future but he opens in limited overs cricket. Things will be different at number six. "Yes he goes hard from ball one, which can be counter productive in England, but Bharat can also bat well and play shots also," he reasoned.

"Umesh's extra pace and old ball skills will come handy": Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj, who were breathing fire in the recently-concluded IPL, will share the workload in the pace depart-



ment and the Indian team will need to choose between Umesh Yadav and Shardul Thakur as the third fast bowling option.

"I am picking Umesh ahead of Shardul because he has that extra pace and he can reverse the old ball, he can be very helpful on that Oval track," said Sarandeep.

"All of India's batters are in good form going into the one off game and that bodes well for the team," he said.

## Pujara's inputs invaluable for Indian batters: Gavaskar

PTI ■ PORTSMOUTH

Former captain Sunil Gavaskar on Wednesday reckoned Cheteshwar Pujara could provide valuable insights to his Indian teammates ahead of the World Test Championship final against Australia, having played extensively in the English County Championship.

With Pujara's knowledge and captaincy experience (at Sussex), his inputs could prove invaluable, especially against Australian batter Steve Smith, who is also a part of his county side.

The WTC final is scheduled to be held at the Oval in London from June 7-11.

"The fact that he is been around will mean that he will have also seen how the pitch has been behaving at The Oval.

"He might not have played at The Oval, he might be in Sussex not too far away from London but he will have kept an eye on what is happening and his inputs will be invaluable as far as the bat-

ting unit is concerned or even as far as the captaincy is concerned," Gavaskar told Star Sports.

"He will have the captains here as far as the Oval pitch is concerned and don't forget he has also been captaining the team, so he definitely will have worked out quite a few strategies seeing that Steve Smith, the Australian is his teammate at the moment."

Gavaskar also said the Indian batters, coming off the IPL, will have to adjust their bat speed ahead of the WTC final, and advised them to play as late as possible.

"I think they are going to look at their bat speed. Coming from T20 where the bat speed is very fast to Test cricket where the bat speeds got to be a lot more control, that is something they'll need to do," Gavaskar told Star Sports.

He also emphasized the need for batters to play as late as possible in English conditions, allowing for swing and avoiding the mistake of reaching out for the



ball.

"They'll need to play in England as late as possible to allow for the swing to do it's bit, not to reach out for the ball which often a lot of people make the mistake having played on good pitches.

"Wherever you play on good pitches, you tend to play through the line, not necessarily half volleys, but in England those deliveries can move just that little bit. So, I think those are the things that as a batter you need to watch out for."

He asked the bowlers to bowl fuller length deliveries to allow the Dukes ball to swing.

"As a bowling unit also you'll need to bowl a much fuller length for your new ball, for the bowlers to be able to get the movement in the air as well as after pitching."

Gavaskar highlighted the challenges India would face playing in English conditions.

"I think the English conditions are challenging because firstly we are used to play with the sun on our backs. When you are playing in England, often you are playing in conditions where there is no sun, it's a little overcast, the weather is a little bit cooler, so you sometimes wear a jumper.

"That's something that you know, the Indian player, West Indian players and Sri Lankan players are not really used to so that can be just a little bit of a dampener, little sort of light but you just feel little bit encumbered by that.





# Chhattisgarh Echoes Lord Ram's Glory Uniting India in Reverence



## Timeless Tales through Dance, Drama & Music

1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> June

Interstate competition  
featuring captivating rendition  
of Aranya Kand by  
Ramayana performance  
tableau groups from  
12 states

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Performances by artists  
from  
Indonesia & Cambodia



## National Ramayana Festival

### Inauguration Ceremony

1<sup>st</sup> June, 3:00 pm, Ramleela Ground, Raigarh

## Devotional Musical Evening

1<sup>st</sup> June

Shanmukha Priya  
Sharad Sharma

2<sup>nd</sup> June

Baba Hansraj Raghuwanshi  
Lakhbir Singh Lakha

3<sup>rd</sup> June

Maithili Thakur  
Kumar Vishwas

Chief Guest

## Shri Bhupesh Baghel

Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh



## Grand Celebrations

1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> June

Collective Recital of  
Hanuman Chalisa

3<sup>rd</sup> June

Kelo Maha Arti  
Deepdaan

## Winners of Interstate Ramayana Competition



1<sup>st</sup> Prize



2<sup>nd</sup> Prize



3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

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